

# Onward & Upward

THE AVERY COONLEY SCHOOL

INTER 2022 MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REPORT

## Legacy of leadership

In its 115th year, The Avery Coonley School reviews its history of thoughtful leaders.

## Summer Program Success

This year's program thrived in summer with plenty of unique and dynamic courses.

## Honoring Chicago

Take a look inside The Avery Coonley School's Group 3 classroom as they travel back in time.

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# Legacy of Leadership

## Summer Program Success

In a year like no other, The Avery Coonley School worked hard to create an engaging, exciting, and dynamic Summer Program that kept students curious and wanting more during their break. With plenty of fun classes, activities, and adventures, this year's program was one to remember!

**9****12**

## Honoring Chicago

## Finding Joy in a Pandemic

During harsh winter months, The Avery Coonley School's Physical Education teachers found unique outlets to bring joy to the lives of their students. Learn more about the efforts made by The Avery Coonley School's teachers to brighten up the school year.

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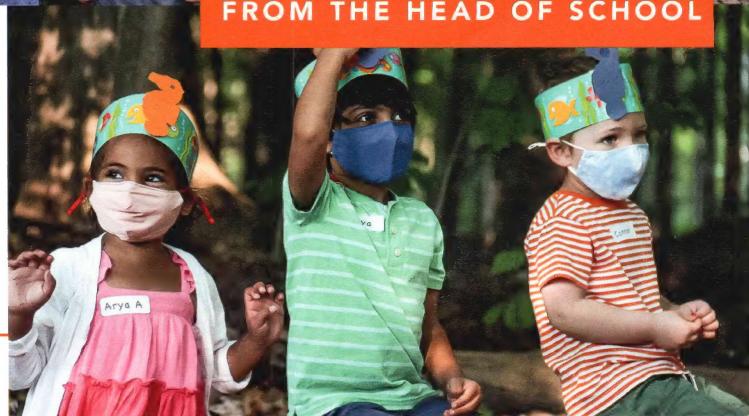
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## FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

### DEAR FRIENDS



The 2020-2021 school year was undoubtedly one to remember. Yet, As I head into my last year as The Head of The Avery Coonley School, I still find myself amazed by the resilience of our community and how quickly our faculty and staff, students, and community adapt to unprecedeted changes, continuing to persevere onward and upward. We could not have done this past year without all of your help, thoughtful encouragement, and positivity.

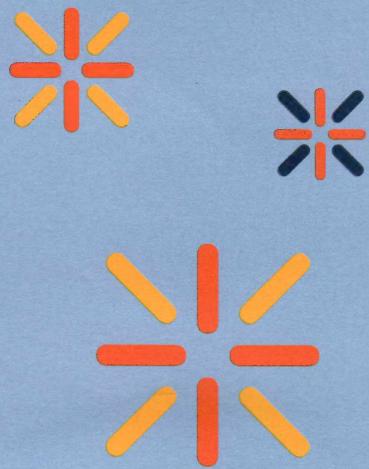
As you read through this year's Annual Report, you will discover stories of our school year amid a pandemic and get a closer look at the fantastic work done by students, teachers, our community alike. Additionally, one of the most beautiful things about this year was watching our community come together when we needed it most. With that being said, I am proud to announce that we received our most significant gift this year, which you will see reflected in this report.

The ACS Fund, together with the Annual Auction, raised \$685,010 for the school's operating budget in 2020-2021. Your financial support during this critical time helped to ensure a safe and innovative learning environment for our students. Your unwavering generosity and support for our school continue to amaze us every year.

Thank you for your continued support.

With deep appreciation and thanks,

Paul Druzinsky, Head of School



# Legacy of Leadership

BY RACHEL BUCEK

**It's been 115 years since The Avery Coonley School first began as an institution. 115 years full of excitement, joy, and harnessing a love for learning rooted in discovery and curiosity. 115 years of classes, traditions, and deeply committed staff, faculty, families, and students coming together to make one incredible community.**

As the school leads into its next academic year, it's fitting that we take a trip down memory lane and honor those who have helped build its foundation. With an abundance of beautiful stories accumulating over a century, The Avery Coonley School has a more remarkable history than that of which can be encapsulated in just a few pages.

While they continue to grow their institution, change is inevitable, but one thing remains; the leaders of The Avery Coonley School continue time and time again to leave a lasting impact on the school. Knowing personalities, leadership styles, and passions all vary reminds us that there is no one right way to lead, but leadership is dynamic, like the school itself.



While the school will welcome a new head of school this year, this cornerstone of The Avery Coonley School's history is the key to unifying and preparing them for a new leader. Join us as we look back at some of their influential trailblazers and the formative roles they played in shaping the school.

This year, faculty, staff, families, and the broader ACS community received a letter from the current Head of School, Paul Druzinsky, announcing his departure from the school at the end of the academic year.

"I am so fortunate to have the honor and pleasure of serving as Head of The Avery Coonley School for what will be my eighth and final year. I have loved being part of a community whose passion for learning is boundless and where faculty, staff, and parents work together best to serve the needs of our gifted and wonderful

students. In a year designed to keep people as far apart as possible, ironically, I've never felt closer to students, parents, staff, and Trustees than I do right now. From life in zoom meetings to Pop-In with parents to town halls to car lines, to lunch, recess, study halls, group chats, and emails, I have loved my time spent in support of this great institution."

Paul's presence on campus will be deeply missed. From a yearly reading of "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein to fun bow ties and many cheerful car line greetings, The Avery Coonley School will continue to be motivated by his love for the community as they move forward in remembrance of the remarkable work he has done for the school.

"This past year has been incredibly moving. Watching faculty and students do so many creative things outdoors with our space and forming relationships with the students has been encouraging. My favorite thing is getting the opportunity to interact with the kids. Whether at car lines, in the classroom, or at recess, they energize the whole school. They are the reason we do what we do.

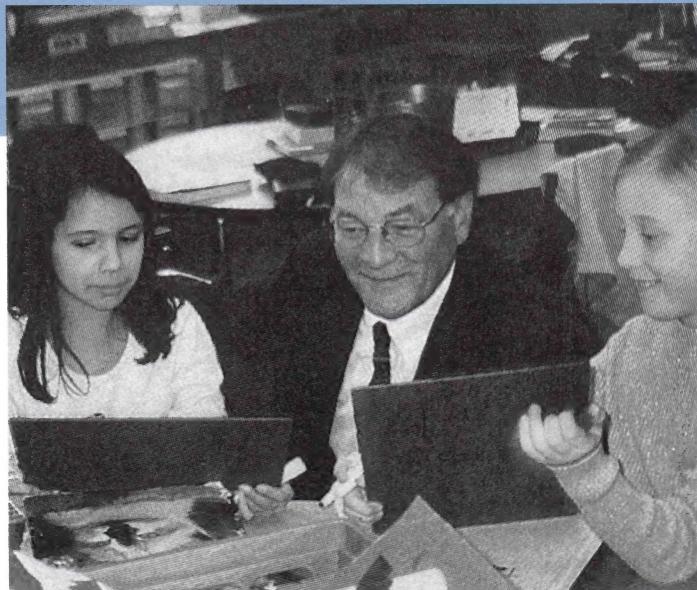
Over the last two years, leaders had to quickly prioritize what's important for their schools and constituents. For me, while it's always been near the top of the list, the pandemic has made me realize how valuable working together as a

community is. Regardless of the issues or common day-to-day problems that occur, we must work together. In some small way, I hope my legacy will convey how important that is and how well The Avery Coonley School community has demonstrated that."

In step with Paul's call for unity, The Avery Coonley School welcomed a leader in 2001 that shared a deep love for the ACS community. From implementing tablets for teachers (beginning the 1:1 technology ratio on campus) to starting the full-day kindergarten program and building a middle school wing, the late Tom Kracht, while only here for 3 ½ years, left a significant impact on the school.

"There's unique, and then there's Tom Kracht," states Anna Lenhardt, Secondary School Coordinator and former Middle School Head.

Relative to The Avery Coonley School's mission to help bright and gifted children embrace the joy of discovery and the thrill of creativity and begin their journey as lifelong learners, Tom encouraged a genuine excitement for learning among the ACS community. With a special love for nature and a deep appreciation for the school's history, he had big dreams of restoring the grounds built in 1929. The year he passed away, the Fund-A-Need restored the rock pond to its original intent, surrounded by plants, in honor of his character and role in making The Avery Coonley School what it is today.



**Tom Kracht reading, working, and learning alongside students.**



**Mr. Malach having a conversation with a student while looking out over the cloister.**

"He took a personal interest in everyone who worked here," states Anna. "He made you feel like you made a difference, regardless of what your role was. He was also very connected with the kids and frequently visited classrooms. He brought enthusiasm and happiness with him into every room he walked into. It's not something he learned or could have done any other way. It's just who he was. He wasn't afraid to look silly. He got involved in everything we did, and he did it with great delight."

Long before expansion wings and tablets, history was made when John Malach took over the role of the headmaster in 1960, beginning the school's transition to gifted education. John altered The Avery Coonley School's narrative while spending over a decade helping develop a new mission that allowed the school to take a logical and successful step in the right direction for progressive education and intentionally building on the traditions, passions, and educational theories that had been present since the school's inception.

This created new pathways for The Avery Coonley School to reach and engage with gifted learners. With John's leadership, hands-on learning experiences, and knowledgeable educators, students developed independent and collaborative problem-solving skills while learning to pursue their unique interests.

The school's engaging and stimulating learning environment is unique and, just like all beautiful things, started with a simple dream. 115 years ago, Queene Ferry Coonley saw a need to serve students differently and more intentionally. Seeking to expand the educational opportunities for her four-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, she established The Cottage School on her estate in Riverside, Illinois. Joined by Lucia Burton Morse and Charlotte Krum, the three women teach under Froebel's kindergarten principles and are precepts of the progressive education movement.

At its core, The Avery Coonley School has a history of creating spaces for students to flourish in a culture where the drive to learn transcends all other differences. Helping children become life-long learners begins with acknowledging the critical role a school and its leadership plays in their development. Past, present, and future world-changers walk the halls of The Avery Coonley School, following in the steps of great leaders who have led before them. This is their space, where they come to learn, grow, and discover.

# A Look at Our Leaders

**Lucia B. Morse**  
**1906-1940**

**Edward M. Read**  
**1979-1987**

**Anna M. Lenhardt**  
**March-June, 2005**

**Frances McLees**  
**1940-1942**

**Richard P. Erickson**  
**1980-1987**

**Dr. Linda M. Murphy**  
**2005-2007**

**Dr. David Russell**  
**1943-1950**

**Dr. John A. Rhodes**  
**1988-1991**

**Paul A. Barton**  
**2007-2014**

**Dorothy Weller**  
**1950-1960**

**J. Gaston Favreau**  
**1991-2000**

**Paul Druzinsky**  
**2014-2022**

**John P. Malach**  
**1960-1974**

**Susan J. Thompson**  
**2000-2001**

**Dr. William Kindler**  
**1974-1979**

**Thomas. A. Kracht**  
**2001-2005**

The undeniable theme of shared excitement for learning amongst The Avery Coonley School's leaders shines brightly throughout its history. As life-long learners themselves, assisting students in realizing their intellectual, emotional, social, creative, and physical potential while recognizing the unique needs of gifted children has created a timeless community built of mutual respect that nurtures an appreciation for education and others. ♪



# Summer Program Success

BY RACHEL BUCEK

Over a year ago, the global pandemic forced schools across the nation to close. Life in front of a screen became a new normal, and summer programs went virtual. Fortunately, with ample safety measures in place and a highly committed faculty and staff, The Avery Coonley School was able to remain open for in-person learning throughout the 2020-2021 school year. While the year progressed, excitement spread throughout campus as ACS faculty and staff prepared to safely bring students on campus for the 2021 Summer Program.

Serving 450 Students (61 of which were from ACS) from 130 schools, the program brought in camp goers from 36 cities and 3 states (IL, CA, and NY). The program, designed to bring a fun and dynamic experience into children's summer break, was filled with unique and engaging classes, creating an excellent environment for kids to learn and grow together!

Courses like Motown Movements, Archery, Theater Arts, and Exploring Math kept students excited and eager to learn.

This year's program, led by The Avery Coonley's School Summer Program Director, Sally Johnston, was one that students will never forget.

"During the summer program, students have the opportunity to delve into experiences that don't always avail themselves in the course of a regular school year. For example, in the "Escape!" class, students must work collaboratively, cooperatively, and come to a consensus while working in groups to solve many logical, mathematical, and word puzzles each day surrounding the daily theme. Their enthusiasm is palpable as they make discoveries, play on each other's strengths, and learn to solve new puzzles they may have never been challenged with before. Once each group of students has solved their respective puzzles, the groups come back together as a community to relish in their reward once they unlock all the locks. A true community feel emerges within this class over the session as students learn to rely on peers they had never known before."

**Sunshine Echevarria, Summer Program Teacher.**

While the course guide of this year's Summer Program was, in fact, unique, The Avery Coonley School recognized that many students had missed out on essential experiences provided in a typical school year. Avery Coonley carefully curated a wide variety of classes filled with plenty of experiences and opportunities for campers to be engaged in practical learning activities that otherwise may have been missed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Because of COVID, I didn't get to do any dissection in my regular middle school science class. Dissecting a worm was pretty interesting. We also dissected a cow's eye, and we learned about how the anatomy of a cow's eye is different from a human eye. I felt like a doctor!"

**Jonah Meslin, Summer Program Attendee.**

From counselors to teachers, the success of this year's program was indeed a group effort. In addition to ACS staff working and supporting the program, the school also received help from children of ACS staff and Alumnus, Ben Broach.

While each member of the Summer Program team was focused on giving students a great summer experience, many of the counselors found themselves feeling impacted as well. This includes Daniel Clivaz, who shared that working as a counselor for 7th and 8th graders solidified his decision to pursue his dream of becoming a PE teacher.

“Working with the kids this summer let me know that I could have a direct impact on children’s lives right now and into their future. It also affirms why I want to work with kids. Their energy and enthusiasm make me feel young and remind me of the joy of childhood.”

Managing and ensuring the success of this year’s program was no easy task, but under the leadership of Summer Program Director Sally Johnston, classes, campers, and counselors thrived. Sally began with The Avery Coonley School’s Summer Program in 1997 as a counselor herself. She taught Social Studies at ACS the following year and then took over as Director of the Preschool Summer Program in 1999 while also starting the full-day program. Her first year as Summer Program Director was in a COVID world.

“In 2020, my team and I developed a completely remote summer program conducted on zoom and attended by over 300 students including both local as well as international students. The 2021 in-person Summer Program presented its own challenges. We offered in-person cohorts with a wide variety of classes as well as the return of swim lessons. We built on our strong foundation to create a program lost to our traditional program as restrictions allowed. We developed three cohort models offering students opportunities to take classes of special interest while exposing them to ‘something new.’ There was concern that the lack of choice offered to families would hinder our success this summer. But the ACS Summer Program has a long history of offering enriching and engaging programs for students from all over. That history brought many of our regulars back and many new families to the Summer Program. We had an incredible team of experienced teachers and engaged counselors providing another amazing year for our students through enrichment as well as recreational programming.”

While these past two years have certainly been different, the Summer Program still managed to bring smiles to faces at The Avery Coonley School and is excited to return with hopes of creating something just as special for camp goers this upcoming year!

# Honoring Chicago at The Avery Coonley School

Take a look inside  
The Avery Coonley School's  
Group 3 classroom as they  
travel back in time.





BY RACHEL BUCEK

**T**he Great Chicago Fire, The Field Museum, and more! Take a closer look at how The Avery Coonley School is honoring their city in Group 3 classrooms every year!

## **At The Avery Coonley School, an annual research project done by Group 3 students transports you to downtown Chicago faster than any Metra Train or Pace Bus ever could!**

Just as history continues to impact our lives and grab our attention, so does one project on campus. Encouraging students' curiosity for decades, an independent study of Chicago's deep history creates new learning opportunities for students and teachers alike. Topics ranging from The World's Fair to railroads to the great Chicago fire unravel questions, inspire discussions, and captivate a classroom as they take a trip back in time.

**"We're here to help build kids' curiosity of places and events."**  
**Jen Vaughan, Group 3 Teacher**

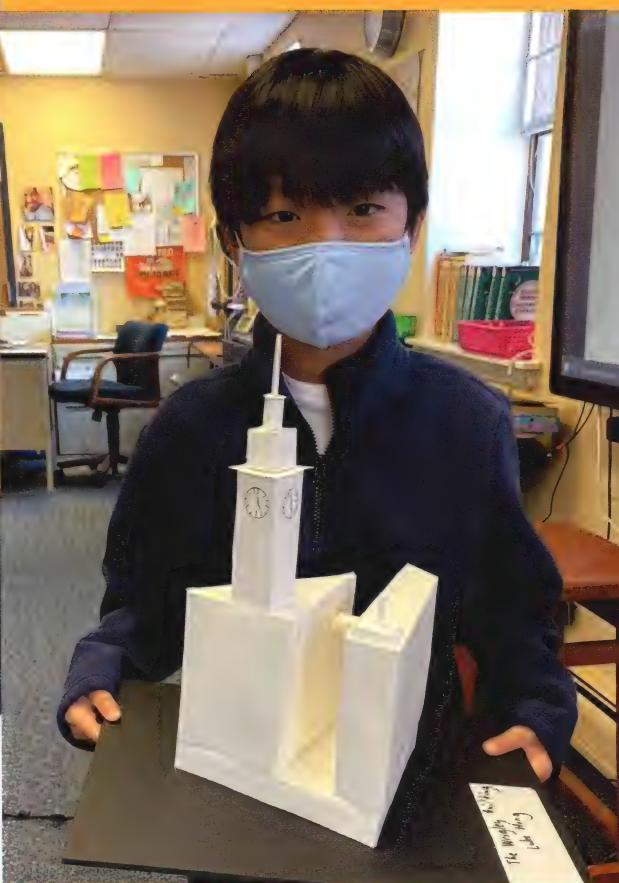
The Avery Coonley School builds on students' natural curiosity as they seek to better understand various events, times, and places in Chicago. Connecting life events to an institution of Chicago's history does more than give students familiarity with where they live.

It allows them to use skills they learned throughout the year to choose a topic they are passionate about and use different modes of expression to embrace the interconnection of the city's life and its people throughout time.

Group 3 teachers combine reading, writing, and social studies curriculum to guide students in independent research of a chosen topic, organization of information, and a final presentation to the class. During a typical school year, the students also take a field trip downtown to help build excitement and inspire topic ideas. This project also encourages students to gain confidence in public speaking, gather and relay information, and pursue a deeper understanding of a wide range of topics.

**"It was so fun! I got to dress up as Daisy, Mrs.O'Leary's cow who started the great Chicago fire."**  
**Ava Yeh, Avery Coonley School Student**

This engaging class project is an ACS favorite. Intricate dioramas, insightful research, and fascinating class discussions create a space where students share their findings in a unique and collaborative culture.



GROUP 3 STUDENTS  
LEARN THE  
IMPORTANCE IN  
DISCOVERING MORE  
ABOUT THEIR CITY.



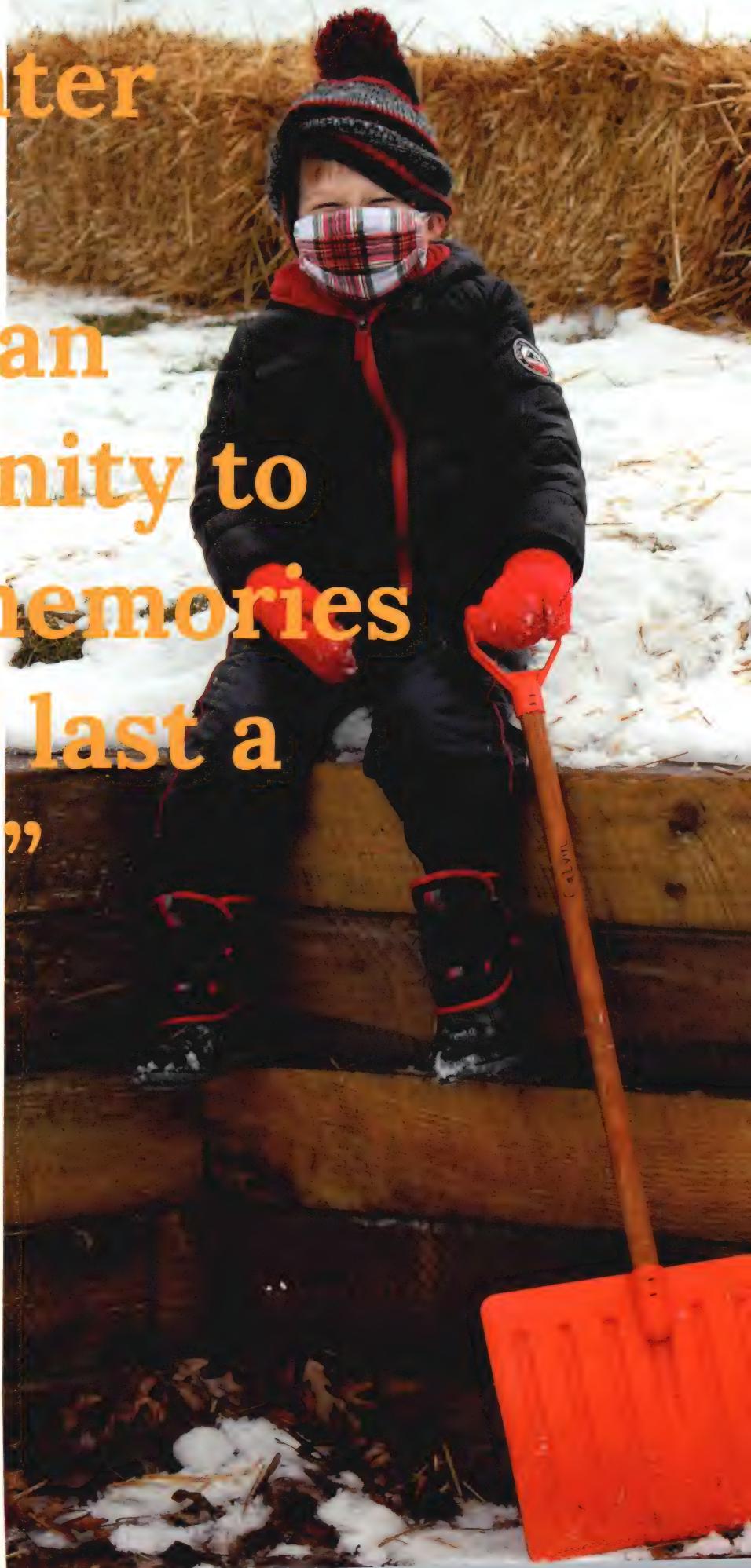
THE AVERY COONLEY  
SCHOOL STUDENT  
BODY IS MADE OF  
320 STUDENTS FROM  
40+ DIFFERENT  
COMMUNITIES IN THE  
CHICAGOLAND AREA.

For students at  
The Avery Coonley  
School, “tell me more”  
goes to their core.  
Honoring Chicago in  
their classrooms is just  
one of the many ways  
the school’s unique  
curriculum offers room  
for bright and gifted  
students to discover  
and dive deep into  
their passions.

“The winter months provide an opportunity to create memories that will last a lifetime.”

“I fondly remember all the great “snow days” we had during recess. The school had a toboggan slide (the school-owned toboggans) and many kids, including me, also stored our sleds at the school. All of this is to say that I have many memories of “snow days” during my decade at ACS.”

CHIP FRY '67



# Finding Joy in a Pandemic

**There is something special to be found at the top of The Avery Coonley School's sledding hill.**

BY RACHEL BUCEK

**I**t's filled with smiling faces, cheerful belly laughs, and chatter between students navigating COVID-19 together. Since its founding in 1906, The Avery Coonley School has created collaborative learning opportunities for critical thinkers and independent, lifelong learners. While they are best known for serving gifted learners, those who are a part of their community will tell you it's their unique traditions that set them apart from the rest. This includes the long-standing tradition of winters.

The school has a history of embracing the cold Illinois winters with plenty of puffy coats, sleds, and excitement while utilizing their outdoor learning spaces. This year was no exception. Students bundled up and eagerly awaited outdoor activities during the winter months, as its playfulness and unique traditions create a fun and joyful learning experience for all.

"I started in 4th grade (1961/1962) and graduated in 1966. Winter was always fun when there was snow. The hill for sledding and the toboggan slide was something we really loved. We'd spend our physical education time going up and down - who could go the farthest? When the rock pond was frozen, Mr. Ray would let us skate. It was so much fun!"

**Cathleen Fitzgerald Schultz '66.**

Last year, The Avery Coonley School community came together to navigate change with an immeasurable amount of wisdom and thoughtfulness. As winter months began to approach, Physical Education Teachers Adam Metcalf and Joe Schallmoser wanted to do something special for the community.

Mr. Metcalf entered and received The Northeastern District of IAHPERD grant for the school, which allowed them to purchase quality plastic sleds for current and future students to use while social-distancing on our school's sledding hill.

In a year of change, students needed a simple way to spend time with their peers and have fun while also releasing the pandemic's stresses at a safe distance. While investing in proper sledding equipment was essential, its impact on students is far more significant. The Avery Coonley School's Physical Education teachers knew that continuing winter traditions would be a perfect way to cheer up students of all ages.

"Having a unique outlet to get exercise and socialize while sledding gives our students a much-needed boost during this difficult school year."

**Adam Metcalf, Physical Education Teacher**

In addition to being a fun activity, sledding is connected to The Avery Coonley curriculum in several ways. It strengthens core muscles while targeting three gross motor skills: proprioception, motor planning, and balance. It also impacts a student's social-emotional element, encouraging them to take turns, read social cues, and engage in teamwork. These are all inherent parts of an outdoor sledding experience, but something special about the community at The Avery Coonley School reaches beyond this. It's more than just sledding. It's about bringing joy into the lives of their students.

Additionally, The Avery Coonley School knows that these fun winter months aren't just for students to enjoy. Parents rejoiced as they received the following email from Paul Druzinsky, Head of School, that included the two words every student and parent long to hear, "Snow Day."

"I believe now, more than ever, that snow days, which are generally rare, are times to have fun and create lifetime memories. Our students and staff work tremendously hard, and the rare snow day is something all children should experience, especially in these unprecedented times. Life is too short! If we ever do close, see it as a chance for sledding, hot chocolate, extra sleep, and a special moment for your children."

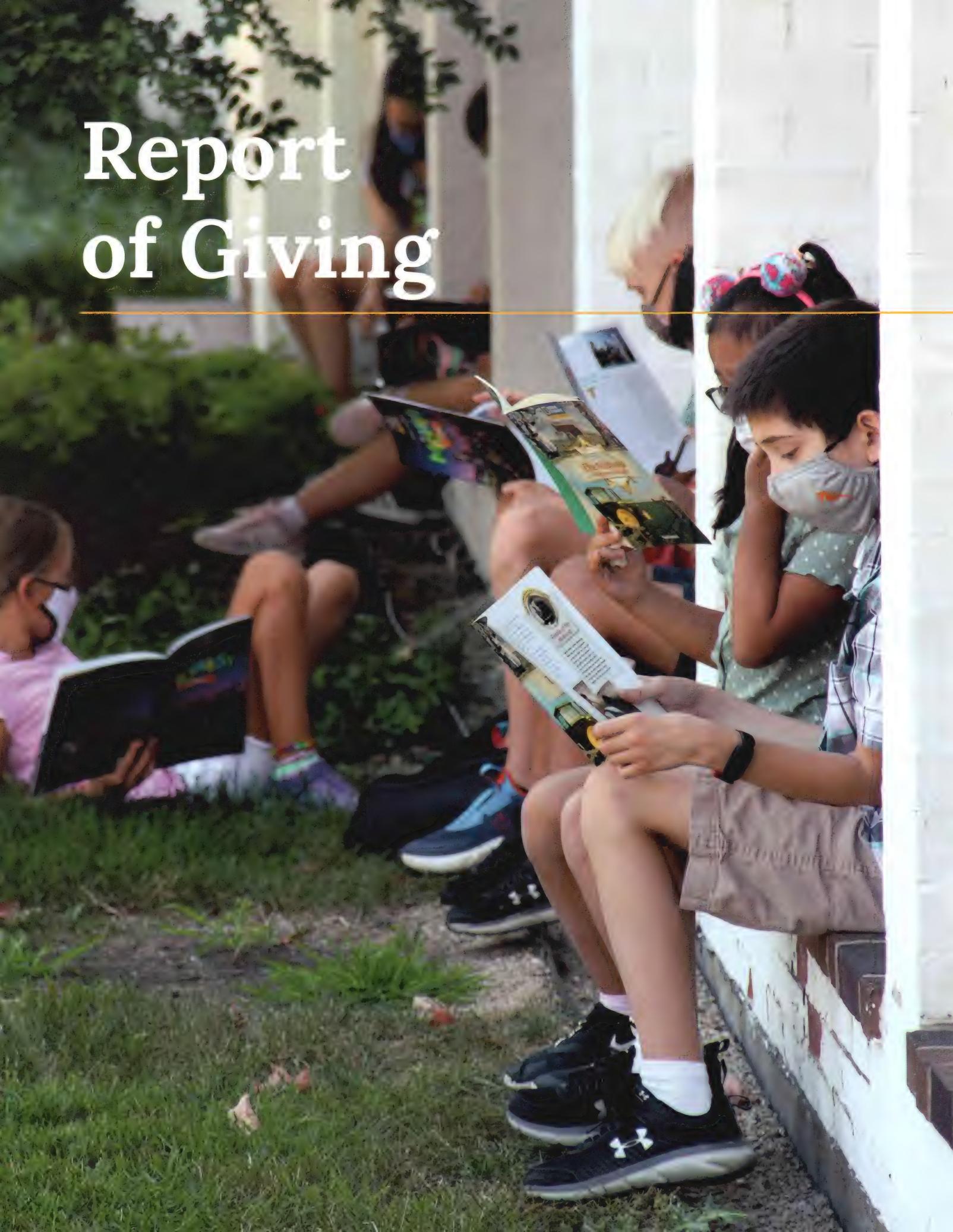
**Paul Druzinsky, Head of School**

The winter months provide an opportunity to create memories that will last a lifetime. The Avery Coonley School thrives on its uniquely collaborative environment and students' drive to learn. Deeply involved parents and highly committed faculty support this community of motivated, high-ability children who learn together and learn by doing. They welcome, include, and support each other in their diversity.



# Report of Giving

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## **T**he tradition of philanthropy started by Queen Ferry Coonley continues to be a vital part of the success and well-being of ACS.

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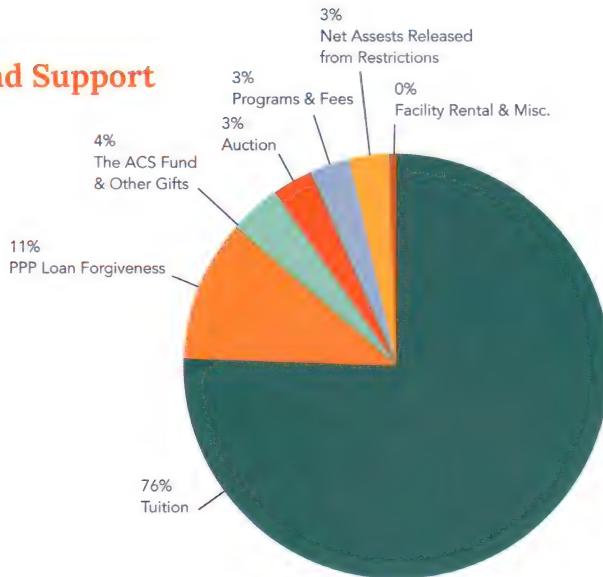
Charitable giving supports the life of The Avery Coonley School and our students on a daily basis. It is evident in the classrooms, where small groups of motivated children, highly-trained faculty, an innovative curriculum, and technology all interact in magical ways. It is seen in the rich offerings of the arts, physical education, and extracurricular activities that address the development of the whole child. Philanthropic support makes possible the remarkable array of physical spaces of this beautiful and historic campus. It is in the school pride and spirit that build a strong and welcoming community. It is in the financial aid that ensures that an ACS education can be within the reach of as many families as possible. All of this, and more, is made possible by the contributors acknowledged in this Annual Report.

Each year, the School conducts two major fundraising programs that are lead by the Development Office: the ACS Fund and the Annual Auction. Charitable gifts to the School may also be directed to one of three major endowment funds: the General Endowment, which supports a wide range of School needs; the Professional Growth Endowment, which provides vital resources for the ongoing professional development of faculty; and the Financial Aid Endowment, which supports the goal of broadening access for qualified students of all socio-economic backgrounds.

The Avery Coonley School extends a warm thank you to the Board members, parents, alumni, alumni families, grandparents, faculty, staff, businesses, and other friends who generously supported the School in the 2020-2021 school year. Every gift received supports the School's commitment to providing a transformative education for the students of today and tomorrow, inspires others to give, and represents the collective power of our community.

# How ACS Works Financially

## 2020–2021 Revenue and Support



## Revenue and Support

### TUITION INCOME LESS NEED BASED FINANCIAL AID \$7,280,065

Full tuition is charged to all students who attend the School. ACS awards financial aid to qualified recipients based on financial need calculated by School and Student Services (SSS), managed by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). Partial financial aid was awarded to 61 students during the 2020-2021 school year.

### THE ACS FUND AND OTHER GIFTS \$446,817

The ACS Fund is generous charitable support from current parents, alumni, grandparents and other friends of the School to help pay the additional expenses not covered by tuition.

### NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS \$258,645

Contributions received with donor-restrictions that were spent during the year. Majority of this amount was spent on financial assistance due to COVID-19 and on playground equipment.

### AUCTION \$259,631

Net proceeds from the ACS Annual Auction helps bridge the gap between what tuition covers and the actual costs of educating students at ACS. Currently, the gap is \$4,544 per student.

### PROGRAMS AND FEES \$281,841

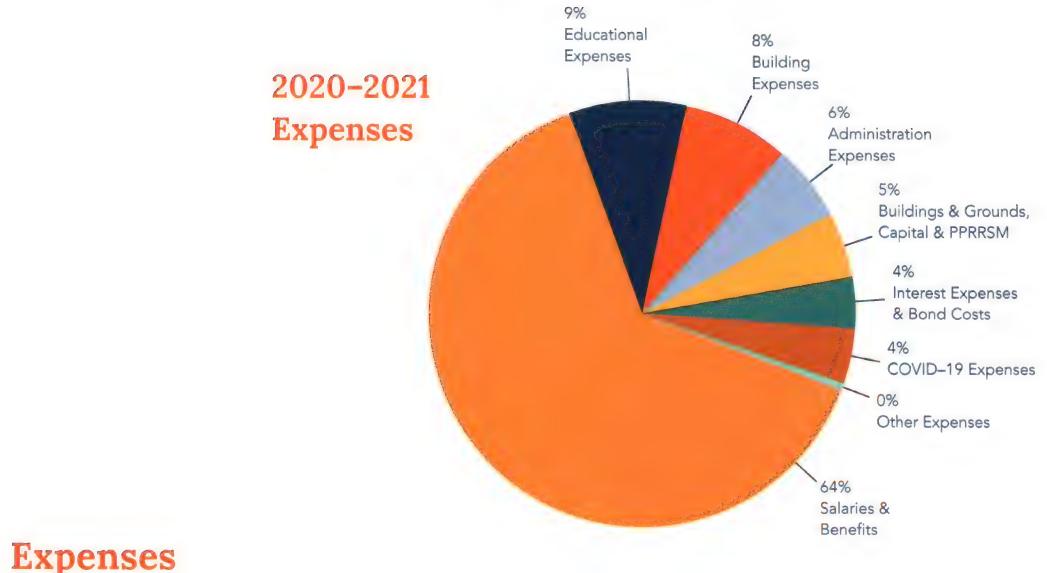
Net income from the After School Program, Summer Program, testing services, and new student fees assist with paying for the variety of addition programs and services offered by ACS.

### FACILITIES RENTAL AND MISCELLANEOUS INCOME \$16,398

Net revenue generated from the rental of school facilities and other programs sponsored by the School.

### PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS \$1,051,192

ACS received a federal PPP loan for \$1,051,192 during the 2019–2020 school year. The loan was forgiven the following year and is considered income.



### SALARIES AND BENEFITS

**\$6,145,687**

Salaries and benefits for faculty, staff and administrators. The benefits include retirement contributions, health insurance, life insurance, disability, and FICA contributions.

### EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES

**\$869,802**

Expenses related to instruction including educational software, curricular materials, textbooks, technology equipment, classroom supplies, educational professional growth, standardized testing costs, as well as spending to fulfill requirements of temporarily restricted donations.

### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

**\$569,341**

Includes property and casualty insurance, financial and legal costs, photocopying, postage, office supplies, telephone, professional growth for the administration, and membership dues for school associations.

### BUILDING MAINTENANCE

**\$789,504**

Contracted maintenance services including custodial, landscape services, snow removal, utilities, maintenance supplies, and repair costs.

### BUILDING AND GROUNDS, CAPITAL AND PPRRSM

**\$476,217**

Capital improvements to the campus as well as PPRRSM (Provision for Plant Replacement, Renewal and Special Maintenance) funding.

### INTEREST EXPENSES AND BOND COSTS

**\$393,539**

The Village of Downers Grove issued Revenue Bonds on the school's behalf. The principal and interest payments represent the current cash outlay to cover the Middle School addition and a portion of the Lower School renovations.

### OTHER EXPENSES

**\$1,577**

Other operating expenses not covered in other categories.

### COVID-19 EXPENSES

**\$414,832**

Additional cleaning, equipment, personnel, testing, and other items related to COVID-19 mitigation for the school year.

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES - OPERATING FUND

For the Period Ending June 30, 2021

	Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>Revenues and Support</b>			
Tuition income	\$7,280,065	\$7,098,175	\$181,890
Programs	\$230,408	\$225,872	\$4,536
Fees	\$51,433	\$36,500	\$14,933
Facility Rental and Misc. income	\$16,398	\$12,000	\$4,398
Internally generated income	\$7,578,304	\$7,372,547	\$205,757
Special Events	\$259,631	\$225,000	\$34,631
Unrestricted and annual giving	\$446,817	\$300,000	\$146,817
Net assets released from restrictions	\$258,645	\$0	\$258,645
Forgiveness of PPP loan	\$1,051,192	\$1,051,192	\$0
Total support	\$2,016,285	\$1,576,192	\$440,093
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$9,594,589</b>	<b>\$8,948,739</b>	<b>\$645,850</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries and benefits	\$6,145,687	\$6,187,694	\$42,007
Educational	\$869,802	\$1,047,004	\$177,202
Administration & Staff	\$569,341	\$648,300	\$78,959
Maintenance	\$789,504	\$681,560	(\$107,944)
Building and grounds, capital, PPRRSM	\$476,217	\$315,000	(\$161,217)
Interest expense and bond costs	\$393,539	\$394,349	\$810
Board expenses	\$1,577	\$1,000	(\$577)
COVID-19 expenses	\$414,832	\$450,000	\$35,168
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$9,660,499</b>	<b>\$9,724,907</b>	<b>\$64,408</b>
2020-2021 surplus/(deficit)	(\$65,910)	(\$776,168)	\$710,258
Special expenditures and allocations	\$65,910	\$776,168	(\$710,258)
<b>Net Change in Undesignated Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

An independent auditor's report is available for review in the ACS Business Office.



William Zhong, Group 5  
*Seahorse Pride*, 2021, Watercolor 8" x 11"  
The opportunity to feature artwork in the  
magazine was won at the ACS Auction.



## 2020-2021 ACS FUND LEADERSHIP GIVING CIRCLES

Thank you to the following members of the School community who supported the ACS Fund during the fiscal year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.

### Elizabeth Coonley Circle

Honoring the only child of Avery and Queen Ferry Coonley, and the first student of the school, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$10,000 and above.

Mr. Michael Beckley '88  
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Kathleen Danakis  
Mr. Lloyd "Chip" Fry '67 and the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation  
Mr. Frederick '55 and Mrs. Kay Krehbiel  
Mr. John H. Krehbiel, Jr. '51  
Mr. John '74 and Mrs. Karin Kukral  
Karin Bain and John Kukral Foundation  
Dr. Steven and Mrs. Amy Louis  
Amy & Steve Louis Foundation  
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Catherine Slark  
Anonymous

### Jens Jensen Circle

Honoring the famed landscape architect and naturalist who designed the school grounds including the stunning rock pond garden, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$7,500 to \$9,999.

Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Lisa McCleary  
Nickum Foundation

### Waldron Faulkner Circle

Honoring Avery and Queen's son-in-law and the architect of the 1929 school building, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$5,000 to \$7,499.

Mr. Gerald and Mrs. Marian Jablonski  
The Gerald & Marian Jablonski Charitable Fund  
Mr. David and Mrs. Heidi Keeling  
Mr. Matthew and Ms. Lana McKenna  
M.R. Metzger Family Foundation  
Mr. Neal and Dr. Jennifer Reenan  
Mr. Joel and Mrs. Shannon Weinberger  
Mr. Aloysius Wild, III and Dr. Caer-Eve McCabe

### Henry Chapman Mercer Circle

Honoring the designer and ceramicist who created the fireplace, floor tiles and the Cloister triptych, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$2,500 to \$4,999.

Dr. Anup Bendre and Dr. Anuradha Perni  
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Debra Bruns  
Ms. Mary Ellen Bull '79  
Mr. Kenneth Chang and Dr. Julia Espel  
Mr. Shepley and Mrs. Frances Chen  
Mr. Carl and Ms. Elizabeth Clark  
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Deb Clarke  
Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Jennifer Douglass  
Mr. Matt and Mrs. Suzy Ennis  
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Kathleen Havlick  
Dr. Bryce Higa and Dr. Anna Stanislaus  
Dr. Rishi and Mrs. Nidhi Kapoor  
Mr. Naufal Khan and Mrs. Asma Afridi  
Dr. Jae and Mrs. Jiyeon Kim  
Mr. Robert '79 and Mrs. Jingjing Kipp  
Mr. Kirill and Mrs. Laura Krylov

Mr. Stephen Lunn

Mr. Ravi and Mrs. Jane Malhotra

Dr. Anita and Dr. Wayde Nagamine

Dr. Uday and Mrs. Sheetal Narahari

The O'Donoghue Family

Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Laura Sandahl

Mr. Brendan and Mrs. Mary Sheehy

Mr. Martin and Mrs. Laura Stasaitis

Ms. Julie Swinehart and

Ms. Andrea Hornickle

Dr. Matthew and Dr. Joanna Van Beek

Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Lisa Vaughan

Dr. Huanzhou Yu and Dr. Xiaofei Dong

Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Laura Zeman

### Lucia Burton Morse Circle

Acknowledging our first Head of School and Mrs. Coonley's collaborator for over 30 years, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$1,000 to \$2,499.

Dr. Michelle Andreoli

Mr. John and Mrs. Artemis Anos

Mr. Iqbal Anwar and Mrs. Tashmin Lopa

Mr. Daniel Arber and Mrs. Carol Park

Mr. Zachary and Mrs. Katherine Barnett

Mr. Srikanth and Mrs. Lavanya Batchu

Dr. Hardik and Dr. Palak Bhagat

Mr. John Blackburn and

Ms. Nancy R. Doris '91

Mr. Robert and Mrs. Tracy Blackburn

Mr. William and Ms. Joanna Bradford

Mr. Peter and Mrs. Michelle Brown

Mr. Jeffrey Buchheit and

Mrs. Kimberly Borden

Mr. Benton and Mrs. Stephanie Bullwinkel

Mr. Jay Butler '68

Dr. Stephen Chang and Dr. Elisa Rhew

Mr. Jeffrey Chen and Mrs. Victoria Cheng

Dr. Amir Darki and Dr. Dina Dadabhoy  
 Mr. Ajay and Mrs. Priya Desai  
 Mr. Edward Tim Doris '90  
 Mr. Paul Druzinsky  
 Mr. Robert and Mrs. Kathryn Dunlop  
 Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Anne Elliott  
 Mr. Anthony '91 and Dr. Heidi Engel  
 Mr. Yong Fan and Mrs. Tzu-Ling Yeh  
 Mr. Sachin Gadhvi and Dr. Nandini Datta  
 Mr. Jason and Mrs. Lita Gillis  
 Mr. Brian Gilmartin and Dr. Lisa Karaitis  
 Ms. Allyson Gorman  
 Dr. Raj and Dr. Nina Goyal  
 Mr. Mark and Mrs. Jacqueline Gupta  
 Mr. John and Mrs. Kiyomi Hamilton  
 Mr. Keith Holecek '94  
 Holecek Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
 Ms. Linda Hou  
 Mr. William and Mrs. Carolyn Johnson  
 Dr. JB and Mrs. Elizabeth Joo  
 Drs. Syed and Mariam Khan  
 Mr. Alok and Mrs. Barnali Khuntia  
 Mr. Miles Lasater and  
 Dr. G. Elizabeth Lasater '92  
 The Miles and G. Elizabeth Lasater '92  
 Fund  
 Dr. Ted Liu and Mrs. Ellen Huang  
 Mr. Dimitre and Mrs. Katerina Marinov  
 Mr. James and Mrs. BJ Marshall  
 Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Daile McCann  
 Mr. Mark McGready and  
 Mrs. Shona McCrindle  
 Dr. Rishi Mehta and  
 Dr. Nisha Gokhale Mehta '97  
 Mr. Michael Nicolai and Ms. Lisa Castle  
 Mr. Madhu and Dr. Sreya Pallath  
 Mr. Rishin and Dr. Sonal Pandya  
 Dr. Amit Patel and Mrs. Dina Patel  
 Dr. Udit and Mrs. Malini Patel  
 Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Kristin Porter

Mrs. Natalie Powell  
 Mr. Imran and Mrs. Niema Qureshi  
 Mr. Carlos Ramirez Martinez-Eiroa and  
 Ms. Xiaoyan Guo  
 Mr. Ravi and Mrs. Carolyn Ravichandran  
 Dr. Farshad Sedaghat-Yazdi and  
 Dr. Anisha Shetty '95  
 Mr. Amit and Mrs. Seema Shirsat  
 Mr. Rajiv Singh and Dr. Priya Khanna-Singh  
 Mr. Scott and Mrs. Michelle Stastny  
 Mr. Shane Stiles and Mrs. Jill Jackson  
 Dr. Andy and Mrs. Shu-Han Su  
 Mr. Rajcan and Mrs. Yuanna Surface  
 Mr. Sailesh Thakur and  
 Mrs. Ramapriya Ramasubramanian  
 Mr. Girmantas and Mrs. Sigit Urbonas  
 Mr. Seeram Prasad and  
 Mrs. Uma Veluchamy  
 Dr. Venkat Venkatakrishnan and  
 Dr. Kavitha Rao  
 Mr. Rick Wang and Mrs. Jean Gu  
 Mrs. F. Lawton Waples  
 Dr. Jeffrey Yeh and  
 Mrs. Stephanie Lizaso Yeh  
 Dr. Jian Zhang and Dr. Lan Hong  
 Dr. Hui Zhao and Dr. Yi Zhou  
 Dr. Yunde Zhong and Dr. Shuli Wang  
 Anonymous (5)

**T**hank you to the members of the school community who generously supported the School in the 2020-2021 school year. Contributions to the ACS Fund and other funds resulted in \$799,788 in support of ACS! Your generosity enabled the school to ensure a safe and innovative learning environment for our students during an entire school year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Special thanks to the following volunteers for their significant roles in securing philanthropic support.

#### 2020-2021 ACS Fund Leadership

**ACS Fund Chairs**  
 Julie Swinehart and  
 Andrea Hornickle

**Alumni Chairs**  
 Bob Kipp '79 and  
 Adam Kipp '19

**Development Committee Chair**  
 Jen Reenan

## Maple Tapping Circle

Representing one of the School's most cherished traditions, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$500 to \$999.

Mr. Randall and Mrs. Barbara Andreoli  
Dr. Kunal and Mrs. Amola Bhatt  
Dr. Steven Chough and Dr. Anna Park  
Mr. Brian Crumbaugh  
Mr. Patrick Doherty and  
Ms. Kristina Murray  
Mr. Joseph Dominguez and  
Mrs. Amy Trojecki  
Mr. Sean and Mrs. Jamie Dougherty  
Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Kimberly Enos  
Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Kathleen Flynn  
Mr. Joshua and Mrs. Jessica Friess  
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Charlene Geary  
Mr. Mike and Mrs. Sue Gould  
Dr. John and Mrs. Grace Hong  
Mr. Stephen Lester '66 and  
Mrs. Rachel Goldstein  
Mr. Christopher Lok and  
Ms. Josephine Sheng  
Mr. Stevan and Mrs. Ljiljana Malesevic  
Mr. Gerard and Dr. Lisa Martin  
Mr. Jason Meslin and  
Ms. Rebecca Malotke-Meslin  
Mr. Charles H. Mottier '70  
Mr. Kevin '69 and Mrs. Janet Peterson  
Mr. Andrew and Mrs. Dina Pilipczuk  
Mr. JP Ramirez and Dr. Kimberly Bauer  
Mr. Prashanth Reddy and  
Mrs. Sangya Trivedi  
Mr. Tom and Mrs. Melissa Sandy  
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Suzanne Schlei  
Mr. Ritesh '89 and Mrs. Shilpi Shah  
Dr. Nasir and Mrs. Zaynab Siddiqui  
Dr. Robert and Mrs. Michelle Strugala  
Mr. Andrew Taylor and  
Mrs. Maria Soledad Lencioni  
Dr. David and Ms. Angela Tse  
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Jill Tweedie  
Mr. Lee and Mrs. Alexandria Zachos  
Anonymous (3)

## Bell Ringers Circle

Signaling a decades-old tradition of a new school day at ACS, this Circle recognizes contributors of \$250 to \$499.

Mr. Saqib and Mrs. Jennifer Akhter  
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Shawn Aycock  
Mr. Ranjit and Mrs. Bhavna Bahadur  
Dr. Arvin and Mrs. Kelly Bhatia  
Mr. David Breisch '99  
Ms. Abby Davis '20  
Mr. Dave and Mrs. Margie Davis  
Mr. William and Mrs. Erin Fiedler  
Mr. Adam and Dr. Aneta  
Gastolek-Paniczko  
Mr. Joe I. Gillespie, Jr. and  
Mrs. Kristina Gillespie  
Mr. Donald and Mrs. Catherine Glass  
Dr. Ankush and Mrs. Amrita Goel  
Mr. Bryan and Mrs. Stephanie Grane  
Mr. Noah Hansfield '18  
Mr. John and Mrs. Grace Harrast  
Mrs. Marta Dehmlow Hernandez '00 and  
Mr. Tyler Hernandez  
Mr. Pradeep and Mrs. Kristen Jain  
Mr. Hilary Jeong and Dr. Karen Ma  
Mr. Ivan and Mrs. Sanja Jovanovic  
Mr. David Kanzler and  
Ms. Nancy Bingham  
Mr. William '48 and Mrs. Lois Krafft  
Mr. Kartik Lamba '96  
Lamba Family Charitable Fund  
Mr. Wei Li and Mrs. Jing Xing  
Mr. Ted and Mrs. Jenny McKendall  
Mr. Michael '88 and Mrs. Anbinh Oh  
Mr. Fraser and Mrs. Jacquie Orr  
Dr. Jose Perez-Sanz and  
Ms. Catherine Bosher  
Ms. Sarah Perron  
Mr. Darin and Mrs. Jennifer Roddick-Small  
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Tiffany Routier  
Ms. Lily Ryan '16  
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Kristin Stumm  
Mr. Brayer and Mrs. Kristen Teague  
Mr. Derek and Mrs. Ying Timmermann  
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Nina Tipton  
Mr. Ramesh Venkataraman and  
Ms. Krishnaveni Iyer  
Mr. Ashish Vora '92 and  
Ms. Amanda Boatright  
Mr. David Wilner and  
Ms. Melanie Leonard  
Dr. Ludwig Wolf and Mrs. Kathleen Wolf  
Anonymous (3)

## Cloister Circle

Symbolizing the special place of serenity and action at the center of the school, this Circle recognizes contributors of gifts up to \$249.

Mr. Chris '86 and Mrs. Patricia Agos  
Dr. Adnan and Dr. Stefanie Ali  
Mr. Walter Anderson '80  
Mr. Chris Arnold and Mrs. Katie  
Angsten-Arnold  
Mr. Damian and Mrs. Stephanie Austin  
Mr. Graham and Mrs. Katie Baldwin  
Mr. Justin and Mrs. Sarah Batzel  
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Kathryn Beil  
Mrs. Sandra Bohn  
Mr. Steven Bosco  
Mr. Shawn Potzinger and  
Mrs. Alexis Bryant  
Ms. Rachel Bucek  
Ms. Sharon Bucek  
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Samantha Burns  
Ms. Elizabeth '01 and Mr. Matthew Carlson  
Mr. Edward Carson '11  
Ms. Linda Cerna  
Mr. Eugene and Mrs. Jessica Choi  
Mr. Gary and Mrs. Rose Ciccione  
Mr. Alain and Mrs. Denise Clivaz  
Mr. Matthew Cook '05  
Mr. Shawn and Mrs. Gwen Cooper  
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Barbara Cosentino  
Mr. Sean Culligan  
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Cara Doyle  
Ms. Sunshine Echevarria  
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Laurie Ernst  
Mr. Kent and Ms. Lauren Evans  
Ms. Crystal Fiedler  
Ms. Julia Fischer '16  
Mr. John '63 and Mrs. Jeanette Fitzgerald  
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Zuzana Fitzpatrick  
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Michelle Fodrey  
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Elizabeth Foran '02  
Mr. Dan and Mrs. Kristen Frandsen  
Mr. John and Mrs. Kathy Gallo  
Mr. James and Mrs. Trecia Gandurski  
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jennifer Garetto  
Ms. Annika Geiersbach '19  
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Heather Getty  
Ms. Erin Gillen '16  
Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Kirsten Gillono  
Ms. Brittany Glidden '89  
Ms. Abby Gupta '14  
Mr. Jacob Gupta '20

Mr. Michael Gupta '12  
 Mr. Sachin and Mrs. Puja Gupta  
 Mr. Efrain and Mrs. Leslie Gutierrez  
 Mr. Paul and Mrs. Diana Halley  
 Dr. Abdul and Dr. Sana Haseeb  
 Mr. Brian and Mrs. Jeanine Helfrich  
 Mr. Brandon Hornickle '19  
 Ms. Lynne Hurdle  
 Mr. Dan and Mrs. Karen Hyma  
 Mr. Mason K. Jain '26  
 Ms. Zara M. Jain '29  
 Mr. Richard and Mrs. Rita Januszyk  
 Mr. Ross and Mrs. Ximen Januszyk  
 Mr. Edwin and Mrs. Raquel Johnson  
 Mr. Steve and Mrs. Sally Johnston  
 Mr. Robert and Mrs. Ginger Jurish  
 Dr. Murat Keceli and  
 Dr. Sevnur Komurlu Keceli  
 Mr. Jim Kidston '65  
 Mrs. Jeanne Kipp  
 Mr. Matt and Mrs. Stephanie Kohnke  
 Mr. Jesse Kolek and Mrs. Heather Mendes  
 Mr. Lee Kopacz  
 Ms. Jessica Kuczkowski  
 Mrs. Carol Kuhn  
 Mr. Edward Lam and  
 Dr. Angela Gomez-Lam  
 Mr. Matthew Lange and  
 Dr. Cathleen Ayuste  
 Mr. Tom and Mrs. Anna Lenhardt  
 Dr. Marysa Leya '03  
 Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Lauren Ligammari  
 Mr. Luke Gillono and  
 Mrs. Jennifer Marvel-Gillono  
 Mrs. Jessica Mather  
 Mr. Zach and Mrs. Dina Mathews  
 Ms. Jaime Scilingo Mazur '99  
 Mr. David and Mrs. Meghan McCarthy  
 Mr. Andrew McCormick  
 Mr. David and Mrs. Deborah McGarry  
 Ms. Anne McNally  
 Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Carissa Means '89  
 Dr. Rajeev and Mrs. Tejal Mehta  
 Ms. Liz Melton '05  
 Mr. Adam and Mrs. Suzanne Metcalf  
 Mr. David and Mrs. Kristen Mitchell  
 The Honorable Philip D. Moeller '76  
 Miss Nelly Musso  
 Mr. Sanjay Nannapaneni and  
 Dr. Traci D'Almeida  
 Mr. Ian and Mrs. Alyssa Neitzke  
 Ms. Frances Nelson '82  
 Mrs. Jane H. Nelson  
 Mr. David North '43  
 Mr. John O'Leary '05  
 Mr. Joshua Orr '18  
 Mr. Alesh and Mrs. Binita Patel  
 Mr. Konrad Pawelek  
 Mr. Viktor and Mrs. Oksana Perekhozhuk  
 Mr. Robert and Mrs. Amanda Perry  
 Mr. Alexander Lee Platt '14  
 Ms. Dana Lee Platt '12  
 Mr. Richard and Mrs. Linda Puchyr  
 Miss Fiona E. Reenan '19  
 Ms. Jenny Riley  
 Mr. Adam Beyer and  
 Ms. Elizabeth H. Roberts  
 Ms. Shilpa Rupani '99  
 James Dean Saxman Trust  
 Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Sarah Schallmoser  
 Mr. Mark J. Schindler '67  
 Mrs. Leandra Sedlack  
 Mr. Kalpesh Shah and Mrs. Vaishali Sheth  
 Mr. Ahsan Shaikh and Mrs. Uzma Hussain  
 Mr. William and Mrs. Lindsay Sickinger  
 Mr. Jaime and Virginia Solis  
 Mr. Dan and Mrs. Beth Spiegel  
 Ms. Kristen Stanton  
 Mr. William and Mrs. Jaime Surdynski  
 Mr. Kirill and  
 Mrs. Christina Taranouchtchenko  
 Mr. Ravi and Mrs. Neha Thakkar  
 Ms. Kara Thorpe-Dosen  
 Ms. Deirdre Toler '73  
 Mr. Roger and Mrs. Angela Tufo  
 Mrs. Adina Van Buren  
 Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Angel Van Howe  
 Mr. William Franko and  
 Ms. Jennifer Vaughan  
 Ms. Tina Vences  
 Mr. Edward and Mrs. Jody Weidman  
 Mr. Aidan Weinberger '10.  
 Mr. Jeffrey Westbrook and  
 Ms. Kelly Stokes  
 Mr. Brian and Mrs. Donna Wetta  
 Ms. Emma Wilson '13  
 Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Ana Wilson  
 Mrs. Lisa Wiltz  
 Ms. Alexandra Woodruff '20  
 Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Debra Wysopal  
 Ms. Linda Young  
 Dr. Mark and Mrs. Jennifer Youngblood  
 Mr. Ronnie and Mrs. Peggy Youngblood  
 Mr. Eric and Mrs. Susan Youngquist  
 Mr. Scott and Mrs. Diane Zimmer  
 Anonymous (2)

## One Day, One ACS

**A** very Coonley's first-ever Day of Giving was held on December 9, 2020, with fun spirited challenges held throughout the day in support of the school.

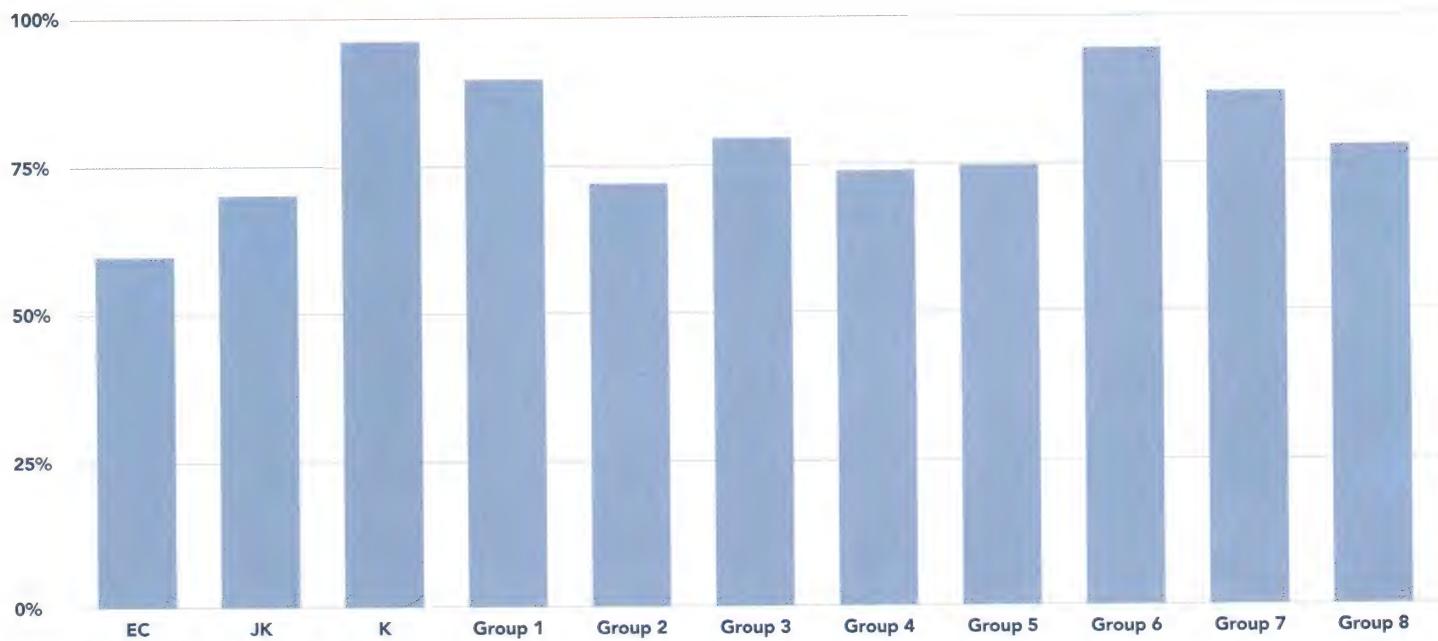
Thank you to the generous ACS community for collectively raising \$41,000 for our school and students!

**G**rateful parents continued Queen Ferry Coonley's spirit of giving during the 2020-2021 school year with their support of the ACS Fund.

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Parent giving is critical to help bridge the difference between the cost of tuition and the actual cost of educating each student at ACS. Thank you to the 81% of school families who made a gift to the ACS Fund in the fiscal year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. Kindergarten parents of the Class of 2029 led the way with 94% participation!

#### ACS FUND CONTRIBUTIONS BY GROUP



## PARENT PARTICIPATION IN THE ACS FUND

### Early Childhood - 60%

Mr. Zachary and Mrs. Katherine Barnett  
Dr. Arvin and Mrs. Kelly Bhatia  
Mr. Jeffrey Buchheit and  
Mrs. Kimberly Borden  
Mr. Brian Crumbaugh  
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Elizabeth Foran '02  
Dr. Ankush and Mrs. Amrita Goel

### Junior Kindergarten - 70%

Mr. Saqib and Mrs. Jennifer Akhter  
Dr. Adnan and Dr. Stefanie Ali  
Mr. Patrick Doherty and  
Ms. Kristina Murray  
Mr. Joseph Dominguez and  
Mrs. Amy Trojecki  
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jennifer Garetto  
Mr. Jason and Mrs. Lita Gillis  
Dr. Rishi and Mrs. Nidhi Kapoor  
Mr. Ian and Mrs. Alyssa Neitzke  
Mr. Rishin and Dr. Sonal Pandya  
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Suzanne Schlei  
Mr. Amit and Mrs. Seema Shirsat  
Mr. William and Mrs. Lindsay Sickinger  
Dr. Matthew and Dr. Joanna Van Beek  
Anonymous

### Kindergarten - 94%

Dr. Michelle Andreoli  
Mr. Daniel Arber and Mrs. Carol Park  
Dr. Arvin and Mrs. Kelly Bhatia  
Dr. Kunal and Mrs. Amola Bhatt  
Mr. Kenneth Chang and Dr. Julia Espel  
Mr. Sean and Mrs. Jamie Dougherty  
Mr. William and Mrs. Erin Fiedler  
Dr. Abdul and Dr. Sana Haseeb  
Mr. Pradeep and Mrs. Kristen Jain  
Mr. Jesse Kolek and Mrs. Heather Mendes  
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Lauren Ligammari  
Mr. Mark McGready and  
Mrs. Shona McCrindle  
Mr. Matthew and Ms. Lana McKenna  
Mr. Adam and Mrs. Suzanne Metcalf  
Mr. JP Ramirez and Dr. Kimberly Bauer  
Mr. Shawn Reddy and Mrs. Sangya Trivedi  
Mr. Michael Schubmehl and  
Ms. Stephanie Wurtzel  
Mr. Ahsan Shaikh and Mrs. Uzma Hussain  
Dr. Farshad Sedaghat-Yazdi and  
Dr. Anisha Shetty '95  
Mr. Andrew Taylor and  
Mrs. Maria Soledad Lencioni  
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Nina Tipton  
Dr. Mark and Mrs. Jennifer Youngblood  
Dr. Jian Zhang and Dr. Lan Hong  
Anonymous

### Group One - 90%

Dr. Adnan and Dr. Stefanie Ali  
Mr. Chris Arnold and  
Mrs. Katie Angsten-Arnold  
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Shawn Aycock  
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Kathryn Beil  
Dr. Hardik and Dr. Palak Bhagat  
Mr. John Blackburn and  
Ms. Nancy R. Doris '91  
Mr. Jeffrey Chen and Mrs. Victoria Cheng  
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Cara Doyle  
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Anne Elliott  
Dr. Ankush and Mrs. Amrita Goel  
Dr. Rishi and Dr. Nisha Gokhale Mehta  
Dr. John and Mrs. Grace Hong  
Dr. Murat Keceli and  
Dr. Sevnur Komurlu Keceli  
Mr. Matthew and Ms. Lana McKenna  
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Carissa Means '89  
Dr. Wayde and Dr. Anita Nagamine  
Mr. Brian and Dr. Christina O'Donoghue

Mr. Robert and Mrs. Amanda Perry  
Mr. Andrew and Mrs. Dina Pilipczuk  
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Laura Sandahl  
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Suzanne Schlei  
Dr. Nasir and Mrs. Zaynab Siddiqui  
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Laura Stasaitis  
Dr. Matthew and Dr. Joanna Van Beek  
Dr. Venkat Venkatakrishnan and  
Dr. Kavitha Rao  
Anonymous

### Group Two - 72%

Mr. Srikanth and Mrs. Lavanya Batchu  
Mr. Benton and Mrs. Stephanie Bullwinkel  
Mr. Kenneth Chang and Dr. Julia Espel  
Mr. Sean and Mrs. Jamie Dougherty  
Mr. Joshua and Mrs. Jessica Friess  
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jennifer Garetto  
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Heather Getty  
Dr. Bryce Higa and Dr. Anna Stanislaus  
Mr. Hilary Jeong and Dr. Karen Ma  
Dr. JB and Mrs. Elizabeth Joo  
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Daile McCann  
Mr. Rishin and Dr. Sonal Pandya  
Dr. Amit and Mrs. Dina Patel  
Mr. Michael Schubmehl and  
Ms. Stephanie Wurtzel  
Mr. Rajiv Singh and Dr. Priya Khanna-Singh  
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Nina Tipton  
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Jill Tweedie  
Mr. Girmantas and Mrs. Sigitas Urbonas  
Mr. David Wilner and Ms. Melanie Leonard  
Dr. Huanzhou Yu and Dr. Xiaofei Dong  
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Diane Zimmer  
Anonymous (2)

**Group Three - 79%**

Mr. John Blackburn and Ms. Nancy R. Doris '91  
Mr. Benton and Mrs. Stephanie Bullwinkel  
Dr. Amir Darki and Dr. Dina Dadabhoy  
Mr. Patrick Doherty and Ms. Kristina Murray  
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Anne Elliott  
Mr. William and Mrs. Erin Fiedler  
Mr. Dan and Mrs. Kristen Frandsen  
Mr. Sachin Gadhwani and Dr. Nandini Datta  
Ms. Allyson Gorman  
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Kathleen Havlick  
Dr. John and Mrs. Grace Hong  
Mr. Pradeep and Mrs. Kristen Jain  
Dr. Rishi and Mrs. Nidhi Kapoor  
Dr. Murat Keceli and Dr. Sevnur Komurlu Keceli  
Dr. Ted Liu and Mrs. Ellen Huang  
Mr. Sanjay Nannapaneni and Dr. Traci D'Almeida  
Dr. Udit and Mrs. Malini Patel  
Mrs. Natalie Powell  
Mr. JP Ramirez and Dr. Kimberly Bauer  
Mr. Carlos Ramirez Martinez-Eiroa and Ms. Xiaoyan Guo  
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Laura Sandahl  
Mr. William and Mrs. Lindsay Sickinger  
Dr. Nasir and Mrs. Zaynab Siddiqui  
Mr. Derek and Mrs. Ying Timmermann  
Dr. Matthew and Dr. Joanna Van Beek  
Dr. Jeffrey Yeh and Mrs. Stephanie Lizaso Yeh  
Mr. Lee and Mrs. Alexandria Zachos

**Group Four - 74%**

Dr. Michelle Andreoli  
Mr. Damian and Mrs. Stephanie Austin  
Mr. Graham and Mrs. Katie Baldwin  
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Samantha Burns  
Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Jennifer Douglass  
Mr. Bryan and Mrs. Stephanie Grane  
Mr. Sachin and Mrs. Puja Gupta  
Mr. Edwin and Mrs. Raquel Johnson  
Dr. JB and Mrs. Elizabeth Joo  
Mr. Edward Lam and Dr. Angela Gomez-Lam  
Mr. Rajiv Singh and Dr. Priya Khanna-Singh  
Mr. Andrew Taylor and Mrs. Maria Soledad Lencioni  
Mr. Sailesh Thakur and Mrs. Ramapriya Ramasubramanian  
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Nina Tipton  
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Laura Zeman  
Dr. Yunde Zhong and Dr. Shuli Wang  
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Diane Zimmer  
Anonymous (3)

**Group Five - 75%**

Mr. Iqbal Anwar and Mrs. Tashmin Lopa  
Dr. Stephen Chang and Dr. Elisa Rhew  
Mr. Carl and Ms. Elizabeth Clark  
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Kathleen Danakis  
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Kathryn Dunlop  
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Anne Elliott  
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Zuzana Fitzpatrick  
Mr. Joshua and Mrs. Jessica Friess  
Dr. Bryce Higa and Dr. Anna Stanislaus  
Ms. Linda Hou  
Mr. Ross and Mrs. Ximen Januszyk  
Mr. Ivan and Mrs. Sanja Jovanovic  
Dr. Syed and Dr. Mariam Khan  
Mr. Alok and Mrs. Barnali Khuntia  
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Daile McCann  
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Carissa Means '89  
Dr. Uday and Mrs. Sheetal Narahari  
Mr. Fraser and Mrs. Jacquie Orr  
Mr. Darin and Mrs. Jennifer Roddick-Small  
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Laura Sandahl  
Mr. Tom and Mrs. Melissa Sandy  
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Laura Stasaitis  
Mr. Shane Stiles and Mrs. Jill Jackson  
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Kristin Stumm  
Dr. Venkat Venkatakrishnan and Dr. Kavitha Rao  
Mr. Rick Wang and Mrs. Jean Gu  
Mr. David Wilner and Ms. Melanie Leonard

**Group Six - 94%**

Mr. Graham and Mrs. Katie Baldwin  
 Dr. Anup Bende and Dr. Anuradha Perni  
 Mr. John Blackburn and  
 Ms. Nancy R. Doris '91  
 Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Debra Bruns  
 Dr. Amir Darki and Dr. Dina Dadabhoy  
 Mr. Anthony '91 and Dr. Heidi Engel  
 Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Kimberly Enos  
 Mr. Yong Fan and Mrs. Tzu-Ling Yeh  
 Mr. Sachin Gadhvi and Dr. Nandini Datta  
 Mr. Adam Gastolek and  
 Dr. Aneta Paniczko-Gastolek  
 Mr. Joe I. Gillespie, Jr. and  
 Mrs. Kristina Gillespie  
 Mr. Brian Gilmartin and Dr. Lisa Karaitis  
 Ms. Allyson Gorman  
 Dr. Raj and Dr. Nina Goyal  
 Mr. Bryan and Mrs. Stephanie Grane  
 Mr. John and Mrs. Kiyomi Hamilton  
 Mr. Naufal Khan and Mrs. Asma Afridi  
 Dr. Jae and Mrs. Jiyeon Kim  
 Mr. Edward Lam and  
 Dr. Angela Gomez-Lam  
 Mr. Christopher Lok and  
 Ms. Josephine Sheng  
 Mr. Stephen Lunn  
 Mr. Ravi and Mrs. Jane Malhotra  
 Mr. Dimitre and Mrs. Katerina Marinov  
 Mr. Michael Nicolai and Ms. Lisa Castle  
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Alumni supported ACS financially through their gifts to the ACS Fund, our endowments, and other restricted funds. They also give back to the school through service on the Board of Trustees, the Alumni Council, DEI Council, as guest speakers for special events and other volunteer opportunities. ACS alumni remain connected to their alma mater through the Annual Auction and a wide variety of other events, programs, and activities. With deep gratitude, we recognize the ongoing support of ACS alumni.

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Thank you to the alumni who contributed to a variety of funding areas during the fiscal year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.

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A memorial or tribute is a wonderful way to honor a friend or loved one while supporting The Avery Coonley School. When a memorial or tribute gift is received, a note is sent to the honoree or, in the case of a memorial, the family of the honoree, telling them of your thoughtful and kind gesture. Memorial and tribute gifts are always welcome and may be directed to support The ACS Fund or the endowment funds.

Thank you to those who made memorial and tribute gifts during the fiscal year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. Donor is listed below each honoree.

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The Avery Coonley School gratefully  
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**O**n May 22, 2021, the ACS community celebrated the 39th Annual Auction, Onward and Upward - Together We Rise. Although the year did not allow for a cherished in-person celebration, the bond and shared spirit helped our Avery Coonley family move onward and upward together.

We express our sincerest appreciation to chairs Nidhi Kapoor and Malini Patel, who championed this beloved event for a second year! Thank you to the committee members and volunteers who spent countless hours to plan the festivities and to all who contributed to the Auction as sponsors, donors, and bidders. The generous spirit of the ACS community resulted in \$258,463 in support of the school and the Fund-A-Need for the Performing Arts Center lighting upgrade!

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Thank you to the following donors for their contributions of underwriting support, auction items and packages, and other support of the 2021 Auction.

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Bill and Carolyn Johnson  
Edwin and Raquel Johnson  
Philip Johnson  
JB and Elizabeth Joo  
Ivan and Sanja Jovanovic  
Rishi and Nidhi Kapoor  
Murat Keceli and Sevnur Komurlu Keceli  
David and Heidi Keeling  
Naufal Khan and Asma Afridi  
Rehan and Azeeza Khan  
Syed and Mariam Khan  
Alok and Barnali Khuntia  
Jae and Jiyeon Kim  
John Kim  
Jesse Kolek and Heather Mendes  
Kirill and Laura Krylov  
John Kukral '74  
Edward Lam and Angela Gomez-Lam  
Joseph and Lauren Ligammari  
Lou Malnati's Pizzeria  
Steven and Amy Louis  
Low Country  
Stephen Lunn  
Stevan and Liliana Malesevic  
Ravi and Jane Malhotra  
Kevin and Heather Manning  
Dimitre and Katerina Marinov  
James and BJ Marshall

Gerard and Lisa Martin  
 Jennifer Marvel-Gillono  
 Thomas and Daile McCann  
 David and Deb McGarry  
 Mark McGready and Shona McCrindle  
 Ted and Jenny McKendall  
 Matthew and Lana McKenna  
 Jeff and Carissa Means '89  
 Rishi Mehta and Nisha Gokhale Mehta '97  
 Adam and Suzie Metcalf  
 Mike's E-Bikes  
 Monica and Andy  
 Michael and Genene Murphy  
 Museum of Science and Industry  
 Imran Mustafa and Sarah Salam-Mustafa  
 Wayde and Anita Nagamine  
 Sanjay Nannapaneni and Traci D'Almeida  
 Uday and Sheetal Narahari  
 Michael Nicolai and Lisa Castle  
 Northwood Investors  
 Matthew and Lindsay Norwood  
 Brian and Cristina O'Donoghue  
 Timothy and Claire O'Neil  
 Ooni  
 Eddie and Sarah Opler  
 Michael and Katie Oresar  
 Fraser and Jacquie Orr  
 Keith and Susan Ozsvath  
 Tommy and Stephanie Pacana  
 The Painted Penguin  
 Madhu and Sreya Pallath  
 Rishin and Sonal Pandya  
 Ronald and Gladys Partridge  
 Alesh and Binita Patel  
 Amit and Dina Patel  
 Cyrus and Katie Patel  
 Udit and Malini Patel  
 John and Jill Peckham  
 Viktor Perekhozhuk and Oksana Pidruchna  
 Robert and Amanda Perry  
 Kevin '69 and Janet Peterson  
 Andrew and Dina Pilipczuk  
 Matt and Kristin Porter  
 Claire Preston '71  
 Imran and Niema Qureshi  
 JP Ramirez and Kimberly Bauer  
 Carlos Ramirez Martinez-Eiroa and Xiaoyan Guo  
 Neal and Jennifer Reenan  
 Restoration Dental Group  
 Todd Rheingruber  
 RK Management Consultants, Inc.  
 Robert Campbell Fine Portraiture  
 Darin and Jennifer Roddick-Small  
 Nickola Rollins-Blankenship  
 Taryn Rose  
 Nihar Rout and Bhumika Gochhi  
 Shilpa Rupani '99  
 SAGE Private Wealth Group LLC  
 Mohamed Salahuddin and Asma Manzar  
 Ryan and Laura Sandahl  
 Sandbox VR  
 Tom and Melissa Sandy  
 Mark and Suzanne Schlei  
 Michael Schubmehl and  
 Stephanie Wurtzel  
 Schulz Brundage, Inc.  
 Gregory Schwartz and Sarah Campbell  
 Farshad Sedaghat-Yazdi and  
 Anisha Shetty '95  
 Brendan and Mary Sheehy  
 Dr. Seema Sheth, Sheth Dermatology  
 Kenneth and Kelly Shipman  
 Amit and Seema Shirsat  
 Shred415 Naperville  
 Will and Lindsay Sickinger  
 Nasir and Zaynab Siddiqui  
 Sid and Mary Siddiqui  
 Signatures of Chicago  
 Rajiv Singh and Priya Khanna-Singh  
 Martin and Catherine Slark  
 Christine Spelson  
 Dan and Beth Spiegel  
 Spring Orthodontics  
 Scott and Michelle Stastny  
 Shane and Jill Jackson Stiles  
 Robert and Michelle Strugala  
 Brian and Kristin Stumm  
 Andy and Shu-Han Su  
 Rajcan and Yuanna Surface  
 TinkRworks  
 David Tse and Angela Im  
 Brian and Jill Tweedie  
 Girmantas and Sigita Urbonas  
 Matthew and Joanna Van Beek  
 Christopher and Lisa Vaughan  
 Venkat Venkatakrishnan and Kavitha Rao  
 Ramesh Venkataraman and  
 Krishnaveni Iyer  
 Sreeram Prasad and Uma Veluchamy  
 Vitality Health Center  
 Xiang Wang and Jing Gu  
 Joel and Shannon Weinberger  
 Wheaton Eye Clinic Putting

Aloysius Wild, III and Caer-Eve McCabe  
 David Wilner and Melanie Leonard  
 Lisa Wiltz  
 Louis Winthorpe III  
 Jeffrey Yeh and Stephanie Lizaso Yeh  
 Mark and Jennifer Youngblood  
 Huanzhou Yu and Xiaofei Dong  
 Lee and Alexandria Zachos  
 Daniel and Laura Zeman  
 Hui and Yi Zhou Zhao  
 Yunde Zhong and Shuli Wang  
 Jian Zhang and Lan Hong  
 Anonymous (8)

## 2021 FUND-A-NEED

**Lights, Camera, Action!** This year's Auction Fund-A-Need project provided \$20,150 in underwriting support to upgrade the Performing Arts Center (PAC) lighting system. For nearly 30 years, the PAC has served as the gathering place for ACS students and families. Home to many of the school's most memorable events, this outstanding venue plays a significant role in our students' remarkable and important performances. We eagerly await the day when we can gather again in the PAC as one school community.

The theater's outdated lighting system was in need of an upgrade to convert from an analog system to a digital one. Thanks to the ACS community, our students can once again be in the spotlight during their time to shine! This project included new electrical infrastructure to accommodate the transition from an analog lighting system to a digital one. New LED lights, commonly referred to as "lamps" in theatrical lighting, replaced the traditional incandescent bulbs. In addition to the substantial energy savings, the LED lighting and new control board will be programmable and easily adjustable to accommodate a variety of lighting needs for performances. Thank you to the following donors who raised their virtual paddles in support of this important cause!

Dr. Adnan and Dr. Stefanie Ali  
Mr. Chris Arnold and  
Mrs. Katie Angsten-Arnold  
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Tracy Blackburn  
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Michelle Brown  
Ms. Mary Ellen Bull '79  
Mr. Benton and Mrs. Stephanie Bullwinkel  
Dr. Stephen Chang and Dr. Elisa Rhew  
Mr. Jeffrey Chen and Mrs. Victoria Cheng  
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Deb Clarke  
Dr. Marco Cordero and  
Mrs. Elida Lopez-Cordero  
Dr. Amir Darki and Dr. Dina Dadabhoy  
Mr. Blaine Dolph  
Mr. Sean and Mrs. Jamie Dougherty  
Mr. Christopher and  
Mrs. Jennifer Douglass  
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Kathryn Dunlop  
Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Anne Elliott  
Mr. Anthony '91 and Dr. Heidi Engel  
Mr. Matt and Mrs. Suzy Ennis  
Mr. William and Mrs. Erin Fiedler  
Dr. Joshua and Mrs. Sara Foxson  
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jennifer Garetto  
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Heather Getty  
Mr. Jason and Mrs. Lita Gillis  
Mr. Brian Gilmartin and Dr. Lisa Karaitis  
Mr. Donald and Mrs. Catherine Glass  
Dr. Ankush and Mrs. Amrita Goel  
Ms. Allyson Gorman  
Ms. Andrea Hornickle and  
Ms. Julie Swinehart  
Mr. Edwin and Mrs. Raquel Johnson  
Mr. Phil and Mrs. Julie Johnson  
Mr. William and Mrs. Carolyn Johnson  
Dr. JB and Mrs. Elizabeth Joo  
Dr. Rishi and Mrs. Nidhi Kapoor  
Mr. Zachary Kennedy '11  
Mr. Naufal Khan and Mrs. Asma Afridi  
Mr. Robert '79 and Mrs. Jingjing Kipp  
Mr. Tom and Mrs. Anna Lenhardt  
Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Lauren Ligammar  
Mr. Ravi and Mrs. Jane Malhotra  
Mr. Jason Meslin and  
Ms. Rebecca Malotke-Meslin  
Mr. Dimitre and Mrs. Katerina Marinov  
Mr. Gerard and Dr. Lisa Martin  
Mr. Ted and Mrs. Jenny McKendall  
Mr. Matthew and Ms. Lana McKenna  
Mr. Vageesh and Mrs. Desia Mehrotra  
Dr. Uday and Mrs. Sheetal Narahari  
Dr. Udit and Mrs. Malini Patel  
Mr. Viktor and Mrs. Oksana Perekhozhuk  
Mr. Kevin '69 and Mrs. Janet Peterson  
Mr. Andrew and Mrs. Dina Pilipczuk  
Mr. Neal and Dr. Jennifer Reenan  
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Suzanne Schlei  
Mr. Brendan and Mrs. Mary Sheehy  
Dr. Farshad Sedaghat-Yazdi and  
Dr. Anisha Shetty '95  
Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Kelly Shipman  
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Michelle Stastny  
Mr. Shane Stiles and Mrs. Jill Jackson  
Mr. Girmantas and Mrs. Sigita Urbonas  
Mr. Joel and Mrs. Shannon Weinberger  
Mr. Aloysius Wild, III and  
Dr. Caer-Eve McCabe  
Mr. David Wilner and Ms. Melanie Leonard  
Mr. Lee and Mrs. Alexandria Zachos  
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Laura Zeman  
Anonymous

This report reflects gifts received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. If any errors or omissions are noted, please accept our apologies and contact the ACS Office of Development at [development@averycooney.org](mailto:development@averycooney.org) or 630-969-0800.

## CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to the generous business partners who provided financial support at a leadership level of \$1,000 or more during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Sponsorship provides a unique and valued opportunity to support ACS.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Development Office at 630-969-0800 or [development@averycooney.org](mailto:development@averycooney.org).

### Gold Sponsors



### Silver Sponsors



### Bronze Sponsors



Continental AutoSports



Our experiential, collaborative learning. Our accelerated and enriched curriculum. Our deeply committed faculty and inspiring alumni.



They are only possible because dedicated donors come together to back up their belief that our children can't wait.



# Together We Are More

"When we think of Avery Coonley, we wonder if fellow alumni share our tendency to first recall its idyllic campus... We give to help the school stay resilient so future students will have the same opportunities to form their own memories."

THE KIPP FAMILY



Support from the community enables ACS to provide a transformative experience for all students, now and in the future.



"My time at Avery Coonley was so formative to my youth. I continue to give back each year to help enhance the experiences of current students to ensure their time is as formative as mine was."

SHILPA RUPANI '99



**01**

## MAKE A GIFT

Visit [www.averycoonley.org/](http://www.averycoonley.org/) donations to make a gift or learn more about the ACS Fund. ACS also accepts gifts of cash, checks, wire transfers, and stock or securities. If you have questions about making a donation, please contact the Development Office [development@averycoonley.org](mailto:development@averycoonley.org) or 630-969-0800.

**02**

## MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers will double or even triple the impact of their employee's philanthropic giving through matching gift programs. ACS welcomes gifts that are matched by donors' employers. The matching gift will be consistent with the purpose of the donor's gift, usually the ACS Fund.

The Avery Coonley School is an IRS approved 501c3 tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Our Federal Identification Number (EIN) is 36-2171680. Your gift will be acknowledged with a letter and receipt.

**03**

## HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Consider honoring a loved one, friend, or beloved teacher or staff member through a gift to The Avery Coonley School. Along with our gift, please include the name and address of the person whom you are honoring or relatives to be notified of the gift.

Matching gifts are credited to the employer and soft credited to the generating ACS donor. Contact your human resources department to find out if your employer offers a matching program.

The honoree(s) will be notified of your thoughtfulness with no mention of the gift amount.

# Welcome and Thank you

## FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

In 2021-2022, a few faculty members transitioned into new roles at ACS.

### Konrad Pawelek

Konrad Pawelek added the role of JK Teaching Assistant to his description this year, in addition to being the ACS Orchestra teacher.

In 2021-2022 we welcomed a few new faces to our team! The following professionals have joined the ACS Faculty, Administration, and Staff this year.

### Carrie Cerri

Carrie Cerri joined The Avery Coonley School as a Junior Kindergarten Teacher this year. She began her teaching career in Urbana, IL, and then taught in Massachusetts and Maryland. Additionally, as the Maryland Director of Best Buddies Intl., she worked with over 600 elementary and high school students to enrich the lives of individuals with disabilities (and their general population counterparts). Carrie has also worked as a writer and editor and spent many years as the Alumni Relations Director at a small liberal arts college. She is excited to return to her first love, teaching, at such a prestigious institution that puts the needs of its students above all else.

### Chris Holstein

Chris Holstein is Avery Coonley's new Director of Facilities. His Facilities career started back in 1988, and he has always worked in the industry that he loves. He has worked in various facilities, including retirement communities, hotels, libraries, and school districts. Chris is excited to work within the school system and serve the community's families and children.



## Jim Leesch

Jim Leesch joined the ACS faculty in January of 2021 as a Math Teacher & Group 6 Advisor. Working for 27 years in Middle School education, Mr. Leesch began teaching in his hometown of Savannah, GA, as a math and drama teacher. Upon moving to Illinois, he worked for 23 years in middle school at The North Shore Country Day School, serving in multiple roles. He is a member of the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics and the Illinois Council for Teachers of Mathematics. Mr. Leesch has also taught in the Spectrum and Apogee programs at Northwestern University's CTD program. He served in the US Army reserves as the Executive Officer for the headquarters company of the 85th Division.

## Keia Mitchell

Keia Mitchell joined the faculty of The Avery Coonley School as a Seventh and Eighth Group Literacy teacher in 2021. Throughout her career in education, Mrs. Mitchell has previously taught all grades K-12 in all subjects with a focus on English, and Language Arts. She received a degree in Communications with a minor in both Communications Research and Journalism from The University of Washington and pursued her Master's degree in Educational Technology from Moreland University.

Mrs. Mitchell credits her father and extended musical family for instilling a passion for the Humanities and The Arts. She also volunteers and assists US Army Veterans like herself. Finally, whenever possible she participates in charitable "legacy family" events for both Motown, and Chess Records.

## Noah Willis

Noah Willis joined the ACS staff in 2021 as Evening Maintenance. As a former contractor of nearly a decade, he specialized in carpentry. He decided it would be more fulfilling to branch out and try other trades in a more comprehensive environment.

# Welcome and Thank you

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We'd like to welcome the following new ACS Board of Trustees who have joined the board in 2021.



### Jeffrey Chen

Jeffrey Chen believes that a well-rounded education is the key to a better community, country, and world. He joined the Board of Trustees to continue Avery Coonley's heritage of educating kids to become thoughtful and responsible citizens and leaders that direct their talents and competencies to make significant impacts on society, each in their own unique way. As a parent of two students at ACS, he can see they are well on

their way. Jeff is an Information Technology consultant and has assisted Chicago Public Schools on many Human Resource Systems and Student Information Systems projects. He is also on the Board of Trustees of the Union League Boys and Girls Club, which serves over 15,000 youth each year in some of Chicago's most underserved neighborhoods.



### Margie Davis

Margie Davis joined the Board of Trustees because she is committed to the mission and vision of ACS and enjoys staying connected to her love for gifted education and life-long learning. She is driven by her passion for seeing students thrive and grow into people who make a difference in the world around them. Margie believes the most important thing we can do for our children is investing in their education early on to give them the knowledge and foundation for success, confidence, and empathy in a changing world. Margie's oldest

daughter, Abby, is a member of the class of 2020, and ACS was a place Abby was challenged academically, cultivated her values and voice, and developed into an independent and self-motivated high school student. Margie is a LifePlan facilitator and coach who pushes her clients toward clarity amid complex stories, leading them to greater understanding and purpose. While her daughter was a student at ACS, Margie volunteered on the Holiday House committee, Book Fair, Room Parent and served one year as Vice President of HSA. Outside of work, she loves traveling, time with her family, and playing tennis.



### Shilpa Gokhale

Shilpa Gokhale '94 has been involved with the Avery Coonley School for many years: first as a student, then as a member (and later President) of the Alumni Council, and now as a member of the Board of Trustees. Her experiences as a student at Avery Coonley instilled in her the belief that a love of learning carries through a person's life and that the culture and community of Avery Coonley nurtures this love. She attended Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University, Pritzker School of Law, and Kellogg. She taught elementary school through Teach for America, worked in higher education, and practiced law in New York and Chicago. Shilpa likes to watch Jeopardy, travel with friends, and spend time with her niece and nephew during her spare time.

# Welcome and Thank you

## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

In 2020-2021, we said farewell to several faculty and staff members who have moved on to new adventures or retired. We wish them well and thank them for their service.



### Sean Culligan

Sean Culligan joined The Avery Coonley School in 2017 as an after-school receptionist. He then went on to help with aftercare before taking a full-time position with the facilities team. Sean's enthusiasm and positive attitude were always present. Even in the face of dirty or complicated jobs, he found humor and lightheartedness in the situation. Despite the

long hours and hard work at ACS, Sean never lost sight of his goals and continued to attend college in the hopes of working in the Biological Sciences. That dream was realized when he accepted a position at Valent BioSciences. He will be brainstorming solutions for farming in places where the soil and water conditions are poor and diminished. We are excited to see where the future will lead Sean.



### Andrew McCormick

Andrew McCormick worked at The Avery Coonley School for 16 years, beginning his career at 19 years old. As the Facilities Director, he took great care of our buildings, keeping them warm in the winter and cool in the summer, setting up for our many events here at school, and keeping our classrooms safe during the pandemic. Andrew accepted a position to manage facilities for a large school district, fulfilling a lifelong dream. He has undoubtedly left a significant impact on everyone at The Avery Coonley School for all he has done to take care of the community for the past 16 years.



## Leslie Gutierrez

Leslie Gutierrez came on board at The Avery Coonley School a little more than 16 years ago. She began at the inception of the separate JK and Full-day Kindergarten programs. She had a unique way of tuning into the students, asking them questions, listening intently, and finding ways to add humor to many situations. Her understanding of developmental needs and her knowledge of supporting young, gifted learners allowed her to interact with the children, which kept them engaged and participatory. She is lively and animated in front of her students. Her positivity, generosity, and inclusive nature will be greatly missed.



## Kirill Taranouchtchenko

Kirill Taranouchtchenko joined The Avery Coonley School in 2019 during winter as a long-term substitute. During his time as a substitute, he blended seamlessly into the seventh group advisory team and the role of Group 7 and 8 Social Studies teacher. Throughout his time at ACS, his passion and commitment to social studies and the student body were a constant in many of our lives. His warmth, adaptability, and graciousness will continue to serve him well as he embarks on his next journey.

# Alumni News

**R.J. is pictured here with his wife Brianne, and his sons Tyler and Braden.**



Dear fellow Avery Coonley School Alumni,

I am thrilled to begin my tenure as The Avery Coonley School Alumni Council President. As an ACS Alumni Council member for four years, I have enjoyed connecting with other alumni and especially with my classmates from the class of 1995.

I would like to express my gratitude to Shilpa Gokhale, our most recent president, for guiding our council the past three years. Under her leadership, our council hosted the first ACS All-Class Reunion in 2019 and expanded our programming for our alumni, which included our first “Conversations with ACS Alumni” event.

Please be on the lookout for more information regarding our upcoming events this school year:

- Career Networking Event, March 2022
- Green Living, April 2022
- Life Skills for Young Alumni – Financial Planning, TBA

I invite you to let us know what “Onward and Upward” has looked like for you since graduating from ACS. Together, I look forward to strengthening the bond between all of us and to supporting and celebrating our alumni.

Ramon “R.J.” Lopez '95  
ACS Alumni Council President

## ACS ALUMNI COUNCIL - ONWARD, UPWARD AND BEYOND

The ACS Alumni Council is the volunteer organization of The Avery Coonley School. The Alumni Council engages with alumni of the ACS community through a variety of means, including a regular newsletter, events, and other forms of outreach, in order to maintain and further enhance alumni connections with the school.

### Council Members

R.J. Lopez '95  
Alumni Council President  
Sharon Binter  
Retired Science Teacher  
Anathea Carrigan '18  
Madelyn Flynn '16  
Shilpa Gokhale '94  
Angela (Solis) Hinze '04  
Shannon Horn '06  
Anna Lenhardt  
Retired Middle School Head  
Carissa (Angerhofer) Means '89  
Michael Mikuska '01  
Sonia Mittal '96  
Simrit Patel '94  
Shilpa Rupani '99  
Zoë Vainkos '08  
Barbara Cosentino  
Associate Director of Alumni and Community Relations

### Class Agents

In coordination with the school's Associate Director of Alumni Relations, and Alumni Council, Class Agents keep the contact information of their classmates current, communicate regularly with their class, and assist in facilitating reunions and other social events.

Charles Crespi '71  
Mary Ellen Bull '79  
Patrick Fry '80  
Blake Glidden '87  
Katie Grube '96  
Jaimie Mazur and  
Shilpa Rupani '99  
Brittany Thompson '01  
Marysa Leya '03  
Angela Solis '04  
Jessica Bollow and  
Matt Cook '05  
Shannon Horn '06  
Andrew Van Duyn '08  
Erin Gillen '16  
Anathea Carrigan and  
Siona Jain '18  
Fiona Reenan '19  
Abby Davis '20  
Shayla Patel '21

# Class Notes

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## 1943

**David North '43**, after a career that included journalism, public relations, government service and Democratic Party politics, still has a fulltime job, albeit from home, as one of the nation's leading immigration policy analysts. He is a Senior Fellow with the DC think tank, the Center for Immigration Studies.

## 1986

**Chris Agos '86** was a guest on the podcast "You Booked It!" which focuses on helping aspiring entertainers build a career in the entertainment industry. Chris spoke about his 25 year career as an actor and voice over talent.

## 1988

**Michael Beckley '88** appeared on "Modern CTO," a weekly podcast that has over 88K followers. Michael is the CTO and Co-Founder at Appian Corporation, a low-code automation platform for building powerful business applications faster.

## 1989

**Christos Hayward '89** has been comprising his writings into a single series.

## 1990

**Christian Goodwillie '90** received The Communal Studies Association's 2021 Distinguished Scholar Award in recognition for his scholarly study of communal societies, both past and present, concentrating on those in the United States. This is the CSA's highest honor. Christian also expects his new book, "Richard McNemar: Frontier Heretic and Shaker Apostle," to be published by Indiana University Press in 2022.

**Ritu Kathpalia '90** is an Independent Consultant with Arbonne International LLC., and runs a Facebook group dedicated to focusing on positive behaviors.

## 1991

**Arsalan Iftikhar '91** has published his most recent book "Fear of a Muslim Planet". Arsalan is an international human rights lawyer, global media commentator and author.

## 1993

**Katie Grube '93** returned to ACS to serve as the evening speaker for the 2021 graduation.

## 1999

**Emily Bernard '99** provided four frontline moms getaways for the amazing work they do for their communities during the pandemic via her travel company "Tiny Trips". Emily stated, "Those who are out there keeping us safe, keeping us healthy and fed...These are people who spend all their time taking care of others and we wanted to give them a chance to take a break and take care of themselves."

## 2001

**Natalie Self '01** was named Cortex Innovation Community's Vice President of Equitable Economic Impact. Natalie will lead the organization's new diversity and inclusion strategy

## 2002

**Priyanka Rupani '02** joined Francis W. Parker School as its newest Assistant Principal. Priyanka previously served as the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. She was also the Alumni Speaker for the 2021 morning graduation.

## 2004

**Kathryn Breisch '04** founded "Uncover Education LLC", an organization to help schools develop social issue-oriented curricula and culturally responsive teachers, especially in upper-level STEM content areas.

**David McAlpine '04** was named Manager, Broadcast Media Relations at General Motors, leading GM's broadcast and digital media strategies for corporate and product and brand initiatives. He also serves as a spokesperson on general corporate issues.



**It took an extra year, but the Class of 2000 finally had their 20 year reunion. It was wonderful to see you again, 2000! Pictured above are Zaki Sheikh, Kara Peters Martin, Anne Stava-Murray, Marta Dehmlow Hernandez, Jaime Breedlove Fagerburg, and Sagar Shah. Not pictured are Harry Rosenberg, Tara Singh, and Anand Vora.**

**The Class of 1971** reconnected via Zoom to celebrate their 50 year reunion! Pictured, top to bottom and left to right are: Charles Crespi, Kent Fuka, Claire Preston, Richard Eddy, Fergus Ferrier, Nancy Norbut Fucinato, Greg Mitchel, Jennifer Whiting, Julie Falen, Patricia Strong and Robin Buckley.

**Mike Zevin '04** was part of the research collaboration that recently detected a mystery object inside the puzzling area known as the “mass gap” — the range that lies between the heaviest known neutron star and the lightest known black hole.

## 2005

**Liz Melton '05** published an article in the online magazine Medium.com about performance reviews and how to improve them.

## 2006

**Anna Heun '06** partnered with MHK Architecture and Planning to open their Aspen Branch office alongside her husband, Nathan Moore. Anna is an advocate for sustainable design and was also invited to present at the Precast Concrete Institute's National Convention in 2017.

**James Kubik '06** is the CEO and Co-Developer of Somewear Labs, a company produces pocket-sized, wearable, lightweight satellite hotspots that allows users to send and receive texts, and transmit SOS messages. The product won an Edison Award, which honors excellence in new product and service development, marketing, human-centered design, and innovation.

**Anisha Vyas '06** was featured in an article by “The Newsette”, detailing her amazing job of Senior Manager of Engineers & Safety at Universal Studios. This feature was part of an overall Campaign by the US Chamber of Commerce to increase the number of women in STEM fields.

## 2007

**Krystle Leung '07** is a Resident Physician in Boston. She published an article in the National Center for Biotechnology Information entitled “On Isolation: Gowns and Glass.” The piece talks about the impact of COVID-19 practices on doctors caring for patients.

**Rhys Louis '07** was part of a team of wildland firefighters combating the Red Salmon Complex Fire in 2020.

**Hanna Mielke-Maday '07** was awarded 2nd place in the Arts, Education, and Social Sciences Division for her poster titled “Medical Student Attitudes Toward Substance Use Disorder Across The Undergraduate Medical Education” in Florida Atlantic University’s 11th Annual Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Research Day.

**Meredith Fore '07** published an article in Symmetry Magazine about English being the official language of science, and

the impact of this on foreign scientists. Meredith is a science writer and communicator.

## 2008

**Emily Temple-Wood '08** was quoted in a “Healthline” Article regarding flu shots. Emily is currently a Resident Physician, and has been featured in Scientific American for her work writing and editing Wikipedia entries on the accomplishments of women scientists.

**Andrew Van Duyn '08** was part of the NYU Law team that participated in the regional rounds of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court Competition. He was also selected for The Hague Academy of International Law’s Centre for Studies and Research, which brings together young scholars from around the world to research international law issues.

## 2009

**Miranda Herzog '09** served as one of three Executive Editors on the Cornell Law Review e-board for the calendar year of 2019.

**Charlotte Kanzler '09** took top prize in the Morgridge Institute for Research Ethics Cartooning Contest. Charlotte is a graduate student in the UW-Madison Cellular and Molecular Biology program.

**2010**

**Zoe Briskey '10** is the founder and executive director of South Side Stage. Zoe developed the idea of creating an inclusive, artistic community from her strong ties to the South Side of Chicago. Viewing the misrepresentation of marginalized communities in theatre, specifically to her identity in the LGBTQIA+ community, Zoe formed her vision to bring the opportunity to artists on the South Side that she wishes she had when she was developing her artistic identity.

**Jack Larrabee '10** appeared on the NBC trivia show “Weakest Link,” hosted by Jane Lynch. He was voted off in the second to last round because the other contestants rightly thought he was a tough competitor.

**2011**

**Edward Carson '11** is pursuing a Ph.D. at Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, OH. He is conducting research on Extracellular Vesicle Cellular Therapeutics for tissue regeneration in Orthopedics, and has presented a review at the 2021 Conference for the International Society of Cell and Gene Therapy.

**Zach Kennedy '11** was the 2021 ACS Alumni Auction Speaker. Zach is based out of Chicago and pairs his passions for

communication and engineering by working as an Air Systems Sales Engineer with Ingersoll Rand.

**2012**

**Meena Jagadeesan '12** was selected for The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans Program. The Fellowship honors the contributions of immigrants and children of immigrants to the United States. Meena's fellowship was awarded to support work towards a PhD in Computer Science at University of California, Berkeley.

**Mahesh Kumar '12** joined the Teacher in Residence Program at KIPP New Jersey after graduating from Georgetown University.

**2013**

**Robert Falconer '13** was part of a Clemson University student team, led by Dr. John DesJardins, that created a “negative-pressure” device that is being deployed for use by emergency medical technicians. The device won The 2020 InnoVision COVID-19 Response Award for Technology Research.

**Jake Fauske '13** helped initiate new diversity and inclusion action and activities on behalf of the school and fraternity, in his role as president of the undergraduate chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity at The University of Chicago.



**At Avery Coonley, we build friendships that last a lifetime.**  
**Pictured here, from left to right, are Malika Ramani, Madeline Cohen, Maria Harrast, Nikita Menta and Chitra Balakrishnan, all members of the Class of 2013. This group of friends have gathered together every year to reconnect and strengthen their bond. It was wonderful to see you all again, alumni!**

## 2014

**Mikayla Gilles '14** was featured in the digital magazine "11ven". The article spoke about her career as a rising singer, songwriter, pianist, and model, and featured links to her most recent songs and modeling portfolio.

**Hunter Morris '14** presented at UMASS Amherst, Isenberg School of Management's Virtual Sales Summit about Influencer Marketing and Digital Image in the marketplace. He is currently the Director of CK Creatives at CK Talent Management.

**Fatima Tourk '14** had her article, "The Mediterranean diet in preventing Alzheimer's disease" published in the Spring 2020 "George Washington University Undergraduate Review".

## 2015

**Yaseen Ahmed '15** completed an internship with the Center for Policing Equity, a research and advocacy organization that uses data to identify and measure racial bias in policing, shed light on police behavior, and work with police and communities on envisioning ways to improve public safety. Yaseen, specifically, helped support youth and policy work—including youth advocacy in Ithaca's "Reimaging Public Safety Collaborative."



**Dania Baig '15** was elected President of "Mixed Company of Yale University," a college a cappella group that has toured all over the world.

## 2016

**Lauren Kramer '16** participated in the Brown University telecast featuring the gymnastics team. They discussed the impact of the pandemic on the sport, and each teammate's future plans.

**Frankie Sheehy '16** is a Staff Writer for the Vanderbilt University Hustler, focusing on the sports section.

## 2017

**Simone Baillargeon '17** and **Madeline Esposito '17** were recognized as Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Program. **Christopher Sapinski '17** was one of the 2021 Semifinalists, with **Ben Broach '17** being named a National Merit Scholar.

**On July 20th, alumni and friends gathered on Zoom to play S'more trivia! Categories included "Movie Clips", "Classic Board Games", and "TV Nerds and Geeks"! Pictured above are R.J. Lopez '95, Barbara Cosentino, Simrit Patel '94, Annie '25, Shilpa Gokhale '94, Deidre Toler '73, Ned Toler '76 and his lovely daughter, Meghna Motiani '02, Angela Solis '94, Mike Mikuska '01, Shilpa Rupani '99, Stephen Walsh '20, Will Anderson '20, and Ksenia Baatz '20. Not pictured is Shayla Patel '21.**

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The program recognizes high school seniors who have excelled in academics and have the potential to succeed in rigorous college studies.

## 2018

**Ninabella Arlis '18** is a National Merit Commended student, **Brandon Bousquette '18** is a National Merit Semifinalist,

**Juliana Gomien '18** is a National Merit Semifinalist, and **Cat Stocki '18** is a National Merit Commended student.

**Noah Hansfield '18** and **Cate Stocki '18** earned 2020 - 2021 All-State Honors through the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA). Noah received All-State Honors for Jazz Piano, while Cate was received All-State Honors for Harp.

## 2019

**Adam Kipp '19** and his nonprofit "Protect Our Community Group" was recognized by the Indian American Medical Association for their work during the pandemic.

## 2020

**Toby Yang '20** had a perfect score in Algebra 1 and was the Illinois math contest state champion.

## 2021

**Jaden Fauske '21** is already committed to University of Louisville for baseball, despite currently being a freshman in high school. He is considered to be the number one 2025 baseball player in Illinois overall, and is ranked within the top 185 in the country.

## In Memoriam

### Gordon MacWorter '43

**Bruce Rutherford '49**, age 84. U.S. Army Veteran, Insurance Agent. His memory will be kept alive by his former wife and dear friend, Jill Adams Rutherford of Downers Grove; his children, Dean Rutherford, Robert "Bob" (Jennifer) Rutherford, and Sarah (Carlos) Rutherford Guarin; his grandchildren, Eva, Gavin, and Lydia; his sister Madlynne Ramsey; and, brothers Jay (Judy) Rutherford and Ross (Debbie) Rutherford.

**John Hoth '53**, age 82, U.S. Air Force Veteran, retired Journeyman Millwright at Reynolds Metal Company, McCook, IL. Loving and devoted Husband of Kathryn, nee Reece; Loving Father of Laurie (John) Giner, John J. (Julie) Hoth, and Carrie (Angelo).

**Fred Krehbiel '55**, age 80, Former CEO & Co-Chairman of Molex Inc, passed away June 3, 2021. Fred was born on June 2, 1941, graduated from Downers Grove North High School in 1959 and Lake Forest College in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in political science. In addition to his career at Molex, Fred was an active civic leader who served on many boards including The Avery Coonley School. Fred is remembered for his integrity, work ethic, sense of humor, creativity, positive attitude, humility, generosity, and his love of travel and Irish art.

He was happiest when reading a good biography, playing with his grandchildren, working on his photo albums, or planning the next big adventure. Fred is survived by his wife, Kay; his sons, Liam (Karen) and Jay (Silvia); grandchildren Jack, Morgan, Anthea, August and Adele; his brother, John; and many loving nieces and nephews.

**Audrey Edmiston '62**, Age 73, of Marseilles, passed away May 16, 2021. Audrey graduated from Hinsdale Central High School, Class of 1966, and received her Bachelor's Degree from Weber College. Audrey loved horses, painting, and gardening. She is survived by her two children, James (Suzanne VanHoesen) Edmiston and Renee (Phillip) Campagna, and her three grandchildren, Cole, Ryan, and Addyson Campagna.

**Thomas Findley '62**, MD, PhD, age 71, passed away April 18, 2021. He received his MD from Georgetown, class of '77, and his PhD from the University of Minnesota, class of '83. His specialty was Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He is survived by his second wife, Patricia, his two stepchildren, Molly and Peter, and a grandson, Benjamin. He was always fascinated by the human body, devoting his life to learning and teaching others about fascia, creating the first International Congress on Fascia Research in 2007, which continues to meet triennially.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021! As this year's Class President Dilan Mehta stated in his graduation address, "I know nobody expected or wanted to graduate in a year with masks on their faces, six feet between their friends, and plexiglass on three sides of them. The world should never forget the lives we lost, the memories we lost, and the communities that suffered, but also the communities that were brought together, the memories we will always have, and the lives that were touched during this pandemic... I know nobody wanted to graduate this way, but in my mind, nothing changed my outlook on this year at school. We were together, and that is the bottom line. It was all we needed to have a great time. For me, this year was just as fun, if not better than any other. It was not recess equipment, the playground, or even the shining sun that made this year amazing. It was all of you."

Special thanks to Ross Dettman Photography for once again creating this amazing picture of our graduates. It is actually a composite of each alum, which the photographer put together into a one seamless photo.

Our Class of 2021 is excited to be continuing their education at the following secondary schools:

### **High School Choices -**

#### **Class of 2021**

Benet Academy  
Dawson School (CO)  
Downers Grove North High School  
Glenbard East High School  
Glenbard West High School  
Hinsdale Central High School  
Hinsdale South High School  
Lake Forest Academy  
Lovejoy High School (TX)  
Lyons Township High School  
Marmion Academy  
Naperville Central High School  
Naperville North High School  
Nazareth Academy  
Northside College Prep  
St. Ignatius College Prep  
Southland College Prep  
University of Chicago Lab School  
Walter Payton College Prep  
Westmont High School



**CLASS OF 2017**

Additionally, our Class of 2017 has matriculated into higher education! We are happy to share that our alums are continuing their learning at the following colleges and universities:

**College Choices – Class of 2017**

Babson College  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Cornell University  
Davidson College  
DePaul University  
Harvard University  
Indiana University  
John Hopkins University  
Miami University of Ohio  
Northwestern University  
Princeton University  
St. Louis University  
Stony Brook University  
Tulane University  
University of Chicago  
University of Denver  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Iowa  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
University of Mississippi  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



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To learn more about our Trustees, visit the Board of Trustees page on our website:  
<https://www.averycoonley.org/our-school/school-leadership>

**PHILOSOPHY**

We believe that the joy and excitement of learning must begin early in life. We place a high premium on developing the desire in our students to become critical thinkers and independent, life-long learners.

We assist our students in realizing their intellectual, emotional, social, creative, and physical potential by promoting academic achievement, character development, self-reliance, self-confidence, independent thought, and personal fitness.

We recognize and are sensitive to the unique needs of gifted children. Within a traditional structure, we provide acceleration and enrichment, and foster a supportive atmosphere that provides opportunities for creativity, problem-solving, and risk-taking.

We believe that diversity is the foundation for a strong, competent, and compassionate community. Therefore, we value racial, religious, economic, and cultural diversity in our student body, faculty, and staff.

We strive to build a community that encourages understanding and mutual respect and nurtures appreciation of the individual, civility, gratitude, honesty, kindness and consideration, responsibility, and volunteerism.

**MISSION**

The Avery Coonley School is an independent school whose mission is to provide a learning environment that is appropriate both for academically bright and gifted children who are motivated to learn and have demonstrated the potential for the scholastic achievement necessary to succeed in a challenging academic program, in order that they may become positive, productive, and respectful members of society.

The new online ACS alumni page and directory,

# THE SEAHORSE PORTAL

is coming soon!



ACS is launching a new and improved alumni portal. The new portal will enable alumni to reconnect, feature a searchable directory, network, get involved, and more. All alumni will automatically be signed up and notified once the portal launches.

*To opt out, email [alumni@averycoonley.org](mailto:alumni@averycoonley.org) by 3/15/2022*

All photos are property of The Avery Coonley School or were licensed or approved for use herein. The photo on page 26 is courtesy of Jeffery Ross. Photos on pages 50 and 51 are courtesy of Van Gogh Photography. ACS would also like to thank Sally Johnston, Rachel Bucek, Creosote Affects, and The ACS Archives for their photos throughout this edition of The Avery Coonley School magazine. Please send any questions about ACS photographs to [rbucek@averycoonley.org](mailto:rbucek@averycoonley.org).

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